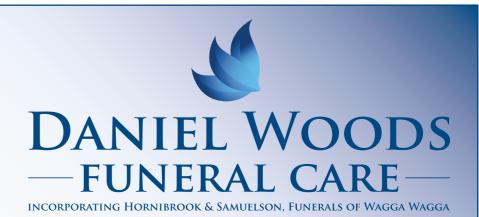


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Snippets from the homily for the commemorative Mass at St Columba's Berrigan.

We are here because St Columba Catholic Parish Primary School is important to us. We are here as current community, past pupils, past teachers and Presentation Sisters. Fr Rick is here because the school is important to its parish. I am here to say that St Columba's is significant to the Diocese and the Church. Liz O'Carrigan, Prue Horan, Aunty Mary and Matt Humphries are here because St Columba's means a lot to our education system. We also welcome Veronica Braybon, principal of St Joseph's in Finley, which our current students will attend next year.

St Columba, with St Brigid and St Patrick, is one of the three big Irish saints. He came from a noble family and legend tells us that he organised and paid for an Illustrated Bible to be copied. The owner of the original took him to court to have the copy and the judgement was not favourable for St Columba: to every cow belongs its calf; to every book belongs its copy. In his rage, Columba murdered :

his rival and his time in that area came : to an end. He set to sea in a small boat and drifted to the Island of Iona, which is between Ireland and Scotland, where he established a community of monks and became a spiritual guide. Further, he helped those who encountered Christ to structure their lives so that this coming, this Advent, was not just a momentary 'Wow' experience but became an ongoing part of their lives. This monastery became a centre of faith and learning from which saints and missionaries went forth initially to Scotland and from there to Europe.

St Columba's has been a community which has formed us, where we, as students, families, teachers, priests, have grown in excellence in faith, academics, friendship and people. Our school is closing and, while we mourn this, we are happy for what it was to us. This celebration allows us to grieve and to acknowledge what St Columba's meant to us and to recognise those who taught here and those who were formed here.

What door is opening for us as this one is closing? Christ is leading us to a new phase and we look for his presence in this moment. He is with us and we want to recognise the ways.

Stay awake!

A reflection for Christmas

When the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared before that Jewish girl in Nazareth and said "Ave", he did something that cannot be neglected by the historian, even though it doesn't fit in the ordinary sense within history or the study of history. I believe that that angel told that woman that from that moment on she was to be the Mother of God, and, presuming her maiden-like yes, that he whose name the Jews never wanted to pronounce was to become a living person, as human as you or I. I, therefore, listen to him, as nobody before this event could have listened to another or looked at another. This is a surprise, remains a surprise, and could not exist as anything else.

The Testament of Ivan Illich as told to David Cayley, The Rivers North of the Future p48.

is published monthly, eleven times per year, and is available free at parish churches, schools, presbyteries and religious houses throughout the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Publisher

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga McAlroy House 205 Tarcutta Street Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Editor/Designer

Karene Eggleton

Printer

Newsprinters

1 McKoy St West Wodonga Vic 3690

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Copy deadline

15th of the month prior to publication

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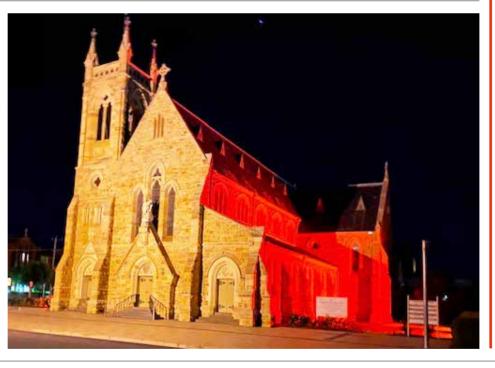
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Annual Subscriptions \$33 Australia \$44 Overseas

St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga participated in *Red* Wednesday on 25 November.

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 were lit 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.

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



Prayer Intention for December - Pray with Pope Francis Prayer for a Deeper Faith and Love for Jesus

For a life of prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer: http://popesprayerusa.net/category/pope-video/



http://popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions

Father, as we recall the steadfast faith and hope May we pass on trust in the Lord Jesus to our children in God that so many of the great cloud of witnesses displayed in Hebrews chapter eleven and elsewhere. we pray that we too may follow their example and place our entire faith in Your precious Word. May we develop an ever-deepening trust in You, knowing that Your Word is faithful and true. May we be nourished by the Word of God day by day and be refreshed with rivers of living water that stream into our hearts from above, so that whatsoever we do will be pleasing to the Lord and glorify His name.

Thank You that in Christ, we have been forgiven of all our sins and delivered from the power of sin in our lives.

and children's children, so that in the next generations a living trust in God may be their witness to the world.

and faith in His Word may be a testimony that will also pass on to all their children.

has been delivered to us by our Father in heaven, and keep us steadfast and true to all that we have learned of Your grace and mercy. May our lives demonstrate an ever-deepening love for You, until that glorious day when we are taken to be with You in heaven. This we

Keep us standing firm in the truth of God's Word that

Amen.

pray in Jesus' name,

Marian's 50th anniversary of their founding charisms

On 16 November Marian Catholic College marked the 50th anniversary of the school with the blessing of two sculptures.

The Water from the Rock sculpture and the Venerable Catherine McAuley statue were blessed by Bishop Mark Edwards to mark 50 years of their two founding charisms, the Marist Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy working together on their current

Heath Neville, Director of Mission spoke of the history around the sculptures:

It is with great honour that I have been asked to speak to you today and introduce to you to the latest addition to the spiritual artwork that builds upon our evangelisation mission here at Marian Catholic College.

For thousands of years, art has played an important role in religion. There is no doubt that religious art, which represents the sacred, has become the spiritual engine bringing people closer to the divine.

We naturally use our sight to experience works of visual art but when beholding religious icons such as these, it appeals to our other senses and feelings. The function of religious art is not to simply refer to external objects but to give a vision to both human limitations and the eternity of the inner world. This is what this design sets out to achieve.

We stand today is a space where many students choose to sit and eat their lunch, chat and share stories and/or choose to simply sit in a place of retreat and reflect. Every student and staff member in this school will pass this new work of art at least a dozen times a day. With this in mind, we knew the importance when seeking to build on what is becoming a spiritual hub for our College with the existing statue of Mary. In such a place of interaction, it had

to be a powerful reminder of who we are and serve as a mission and call to action in our faith.

Marian Catholic College has a rich history and we have attempted to bring history to life here. The sculptures that you see behind me are a reminder of our founding charisms, the Mercy Sisters and Marist Brothers. It is in 2020 that we celebrate 50 years of these two charisms working together on this site.

Before I speak briefly about the elements of the piece I would like to acknowledge the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes to make this possible. Firstly, Mr Alan Le Brocque and the leadership team who have been involved the entire way, Joanne Smith whose work is often unsung, her organisation and ability to find the funds is nothing short of a miracle and I would like to highlight the effort in design and labour of our maintenance staff Simon Aventi and Warren Bock. Their hard work has been noticed by all throughout the construction of this piece in front of the whole community. Everyone has witnessed the effort that goes into providing such a space for our students and this is what is at the core of this artwork. A piece designed and built by Marian, for Marian. The rock was also sourced and donated from the Aventi family to feature now for years to come in its new space. Once again the resources like many coming from our Marian family. Now the elements:

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge that the Gugaa, the totem animal of the Wiradjurri people has been relocated to this space as we carefully build upon the land that always was and always will be



Bishop Mark Edwards OMI, Belinda Aventi - Liturgy Co-ordinator, Domenica Polimeni - Religion Co-ordinator, Alan Le Brocque - Principal and Heath Neville - Director of Mission.

Wiradjuri country.

Catherine McAuley stands tall proudly on the plinth. Catherine represents the

Let me talk you through the sculpture:

Mercy Sisters. Proud, confident and kind, Catherine gazes across the school and directly to the future site of our staff facilities. It is her gaze that will serve as a reminder of the strength and courage that is needed to lead and teach in this catholic

Catherine stands beside the flowing water from the mighty rock. This represents the Marist Brothers and how we flow in the tradition of Marcellin Champagnat. We have designed a neverending flow of water that creates not only a visual but audible reminder of Marist values.

A representative from the Mercy and Marist are here today to speak further on these elements.

The stepping stones that surround the two icons you may have seen before. They once formed the path to the former Principals residence. Through the stewardship of our college grounds, we have recovered the beautiful mosaics created by Belinda Pandebianco and her class over 15 years ago. These tiles now step our students through the history of our church and remind us of this history that formed the charisms they now surround.

The stones that lay at the feet of Catherine were also refuged from the former nun's residence and serve to remind us of the contribution of elements such as our local parish who kindly handed the bricks and mortar of that residence over to the College after the departure of the Sr's many years ago.

The Roses planted behind these features form a backdrop and symbolise the possibilities we have to blossom and bloom in full beauty if we take the time to remember the values this artwork represents.

Finally, the cross is placed above all and in full sight. This is a reminder of our telos, our purpose and overarching desire. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life for all. This is central to all that we do.

This is a space that will continue to grow as our faith continues to grow. Made by the staff and students of Marian for the staff and students of Marian. A reminder of who we are and who we long to be, enjoyed by all for many years to come.



Sr Theresa Foley, Sr Patricia Johnson from the Sisters of Mercy in Griffith



Maintenance staff putting the final touches on the sculptures.



Design and Construction Team members Warren Bock, Simon Aventi and Heath Neville.

Fr Paul Hart celebrates years of service

Fr Hart celebrated his Golden Jubilee Year of

service to the priesthood on 29 August.

"It's been a great journey; God is appointed to Corowa since 1945. good and life is worth living."

These are the words Father Paul Hart used at his retirement in 2017 to sum up his then 46 years of ministry as a priest in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Father Hart retired after serving the Corowa community for 20 years as parish priest of St Mary's Star of the Sea

Born in Junee in 1941, the son of Bede and Mona Hart, Fr Paul was ordained in his home parish church, St Joseph's, by Bishop Francis Carroll on August 29,

After schooling at Erinvale Public School; Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Boys' School, Bowral and Christian Brothers' Agricultural College near Goulburn, Fr Paul worked in farming, wool classing and banking before deciding to pursue a call to the priesthood.

Bishop Henschke supported his application to the diocesan priesthood however before he could begin seminary studies, Fr Paul went back to school to complete years 11 and 12 at Chevalier College, Bowral as a mature age student. He studied philosophy at St Columba's Seminary, Springwood then theology at St Patrick's College, Manly from 1967-

After ordination Fr Paul's parish appointments included St Michael's Cathedral Parish, Wagga Wagga; North Albury; Albury; Narrandera; Lavington and Tocumwal. He was appointed parish priest of Tumbarumba in 1984 and Finley in 1989 before his move to

1970.

Corowa in 1997.

At his retirement the Corowa community gathered to pay tribute to their much loved minister at a farewell dinner at the Corowa RSL Club. Speaking on behalf of the parish community, Deputy Principal of St Mary's Primary School, Corowa Mrs Mary Milthorpe, said Fr Paul was "far more than our parish priest".

"He has become our friend and mentor and has accompanied us on a significant part of our life's journey these last 20 years. He has supported many parish activities and instigated others for the benefit of his parishioners such as the monthly Anointing Mass at St Mary's hall and the Karinya Aged Care facility.

"Fr Paul's ministry stretched far beyond his parish with an open door policy as he embraced all those in need. He is a friend to all and encouraged his parishioners to embrace Ecumenism. His association with the Corowa Ministers' Fraternal is testament to his commitment. encouraged our involvement community church services that included all denominations."

Mrs Milthorpe said the community would remember Fr Paul for his care and concern of people confined to their home, in hospital or nursing homes.

"He will also be remembered for his empathy and understanding of those families suffering grief and loss. He was available at any time to sit with and comfort those who needed comforting and anoint loved ones."

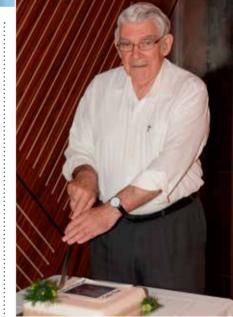
Fr Hart has a well-deserved reputation for his sweet tooth. "Perhaps it was the legendary reputation that the Fr Hart was only the third parish priest : Catholic Women's League ladies had :

for providing a delicious afternoon tea that drew Fr Paul so religiously to their meetings," Mrs Milthorpe speculated.

Fr Hart said his priestly journey had included many highlights such as celebrating his Silver Jubilee at Finley and his 40th anniversary in Corowa in 2010.

He said it was Christ's life-giving message that carried the priest as he travelled the journey of life and faith, of joy and sadness.

"Christ is key to relationships forged when supporting others in need including those who come to the door during hard times and in need of a word of hope or other assistance," Fr Hart said.



Fr Paul Hart cutting his cake at his retirement in 2017.





Fr Luke Joseph celebrates his par of service

Fr Luke celebrated his 25th Silver Jubilee Year of service on 23 September.

Born in Wagga Wagga in 1963, the son of Farmey and Felicity Joseph, Fr Luke was ordained at St Michael's Cathedral by Bishop Brennan on September 23, 1995.

Fr Luke attended St Maria Goretti

Primary School and Bishop Henschke Boys' School Primary Wagga Wagga and then College Ignatius' Sydney for secondary schooling. He then studied at the Catholic Theological College in Melbourne from 1988 to 1991 and then at the Pontifical Urban University

Rome from 1991 to 1995.

After his ordination into the priesthood Fr Luke was appointed to St Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga and in 2007 he made the move to Tarcutta parish.

Let us pray for our priests.



Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Tarcutta





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The Erin Earth garden is a place to relax and unwind. Spring's sights and sounds are sure to brighten and lighten your day.

Our half hectare native garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Wednesdays during school term, 9am - 4pm. 1 Kildare St Turvey Park.







Ordination to the Priesthood

On December 11, Cyprian Onuorah will be ordained as a priest at St Michael's Cathedral.

by Karene Eggleton

I caught up with Cyprian Onuorah at St Michael's Cathedral where he was both nervous and excited about his ordination to the priesthood.

Cyprian was born in Onitsha, Anambra state of Nigeria, West Africa. He is the second youngest of five children of Cyprian Chidi and Obioma Mary Onuorah. Cyprian came to the Wagga Wagga Diocese in 2012 and spent some months at St Patrick's Parish in Albury discerning the call to the priesthood and was accepted as a seminarian at Vianney College at the beginning of 2013 by Bishop Hanna.

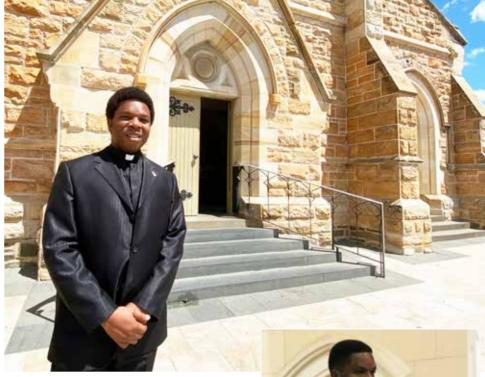
He has been placed in the parishes of Thurgoona, Lavington, Griffith and Narrandera and after his ordination as a deacon on 7 June 2019 was placed at St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga to prepare for his priestly ordination.

When Cyprian is ordained to the priesthood he will be appointed to the West Wagga Parish as Assistant Priest. Being ordained during a pandemic presents its challenges especially with international travel not being allowed.

right now is that my parents will not be sitting in the same church with me as I take that bold step to the priesthood. They are my shoulder, my number one supporter and fans. They encouraged and prayed me through. They were there at the beginning, they knew all my struggles, pains and joys, and it hurts me not to see them in the church with me cheering me on. But I am glad that they, and indeed all my friends and families who are not able to come because of the pandemic, will at least be participating through the online streaming. Thanks be to God!!"

"But even with all this weighing on my mind as I approach the altar, I strongly feel that it is a privilege that my ordination is occurring in such times of uncertainty. I think that the Lord is using this ordination to encourage us and sustain us on the path of hope. It is for me a sign of hope, love and reassurance that the Lord is always with us. It is a sign of a better tomorrow. I am always grateful to God who has called me at this hour, at this moment."

Cyprian is so grateful to all who have "I think my most significant sorrow supported and cared for him since the (Thank you and God bless you)."



Cyprian Onuorah outside St Michael's Cathedral.

beginning of his journey to the priesthood.

"Thank you all who believed what the Lord was doing in my life and never gave up on me. My heart is full of gratitude, and I beg you all to continue to pray for me as I embark on this new road and journey of my life. Thank you all, and in my Igbo language, I say, Daluu!!! Ndewo!! Chkwu gozie unu nke oma.



Ordination to the Diaconate

Connell Perry will be ordained as a deacon at St Michael's Cathedral on December 11.

by Karene Eggleton

Connell Perry was born in Alice Springs, Northern Territory, the eldest of nine children. Connell has four brothers, one of whom is in his 5th year in the seminary, and four sisters.

"I have been blessed with a beautiful family who have been so supportive throughout every step of the way".

Connell has lived primarily in Wagga Wagga with the family home being in Albury where his parents run their own generator business.

Connell accepted into Vianney College at the end of 2013 and began formation in 2014 when he was only 19 years old. He has been placed in the parishes of Ganmain, Griffith, Narrandera, Leeton, North Albury, St Michael's Cathedral and also completed a placement at Canberra Hospital.

"They have been wonderful experiences and I am grateful to all the parishioners



Connell Perry with his family in 2016 at his sister Isabel's Confirmation at St Mary's, Jindera.



Connell Perry is grateful to everyone who has been a part of his journey.

and priests in each of these parishes". I asked Connell how it felt being

ordained during a pandemic.

"It will certainly be unforgettable and it makes one realise what is really essential and important. I am grateful that we are able to gather together to some degree within the current restrictions and thanks to the modern means like live-streaming, we are able to include those who can't physically be present, making the most of the current situation".

After Connell's ordination he will be posted to St Michael's Cathedral as part of his preparation for priestly ordination.

"As I begin further living out my baptismal calling through ministry as deacon by serving God and serving his people, I am grateful to everyone who has been a part of the journey so far."

"I ask that you all spare a prayer for me every now and then that I can truly become someone who lives out the work of God through the love of the heart of Jesus".

St Patrick's Holbrook launch a new look from 2021

On 18 November St Patrick's Holbrook launched their new logo, uniform and Capital Infrastructure Building Works for 2021.

St Patrick's School, Holbrook would like to thank everyone who supported the launch event. In particular Mayor Heather Wilton, Father Terence Mahedy, Darren Wighton - Aboriginal Education Officer, Hope Mackinlay and Laura Melbourne, Judy Jones, Jane Wailes - Uniform Committee Chair and of course the amazing models.

2021 Initiatives:

- K-Yr6 STEM
- Tournament of Minds (Gifted and Talented)
- K-Yr6 Ukulele
- K-Yr6 Visual Art Teacher
- K-Yr6 Physical Education Teacher
- Literacy Instructional Coach

2021 Capital Infrastructure Building Norks:

- To commence January 2021 Front Office / First Aid Room / Library / Staff Room / Breakout Rooms
- 2021 Commencement Date TBC
 Multi-use sports court proper coating and linemarking for Netball/ Basketball and Tennis, to include seating on the perimeter.
- Extension to the nature play area to include a Fire-Pit, Frog Pond and local Indigenous Plants.
- Expansion of Senior Playground.

St Patrick's School, Holbrook. are excited for what 2021 and beyond holds for their school.



Above: Fr Terence Mahedy blessed the school.

Left: Everyone enjoyed the cupcakes.

Below: Jane Wailes (Uniform Committee Chair) introduces the new school uniform.



Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick (Principal), Geraldine Hocking (Staff) and Darren Wighton (Aboriginal Education Officer) launch the new school logo.



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The Major Awards were then presented by the dignitaries in attendance. Congratulations to all of the award recipients.



Year 12 Xavier High School class of 2020 held their graduation on Friday November 13. Wishing you all the best for the future.









This has been a challenging year for everyone and it was wonderful that the students had the opportunity to have commemorate this milestone with their parents. We were fortunate to have Bishop Mark Edwards attend and he presented the students with their graduation certificates.

In the unusual circumstances of this year, Year 12 2020 have been forced to reflect and slow down, to appreciate the gift of human interaction and to grow in resilience. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours and have confidence they will rise to challenges placed before them.











St Francis De Sales Regional College held their 2020 Year 12 Graduation on 21 November at the Yoogali Club in Griffith. The event had to be held out of town due to COVID regulations. The graduation dinner proved to be a joyous celebration of everything that is good about St Francis College.

Congratulations to all of the 88 graduating students and their families.





St Columba's School open day and

closing Mass

After over 120 years of delivering Catholic Education in Berrigan, St Columba's Catholic Primary School will close its doors at the end of the current school year.

by Matt Humphrey

To commemorate such a long and proud history, the school community held an open day with historical displays followed by a closing Mass on Saturday 28 November

celebrated by Bishop Mark Edwards. Although numbers were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions, many past and present students, staff, religious and community members were able



Former students of St Columba's attended the Mass.



Bishop Mark Edwards OMI with Max McLoughlin, a former student of St Columba's.





[P] 6921 2212 89-91 Morgan St, Wagga Wagga



Bishop Mark Edwards OMI celebrates the closing Mass.

to attend. The Mass was followed by speeches and presentations of significant items from the school to representatives from the Presentation Sisters, Catholic Education, Diocese of Wagga Wagga and the local community.

A particular highlight during the speeches was provided by the first lay principal of St Columba's, Mr Michael Jones, as he reminisced of his young family's time in Berrigan and lead those in attendance down memory lane with a couple of impromptu sing-a-longs.



Current students presented items of historical significance.

For those unable to attend, a recording of the Mass can be viewed online using the following link - https://www. thestreamingguys.com.au/production/ st-columba/

Commemorative items, including a book celebrating the long history of St Columba's, are being produced and are available for pre-purchase by visiting https://compasstix.com/e/o2kcctuupd

This book and commemorative items are expected to ship towards the end of February 2021.



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World Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day on 10 December is a day worth celebrating. It marks a long history of struggle – for the right of people without property to vote, for example, for the right of women to vote, for the right of Indigenous people to vote. by Jesuit Social Services

The acceptance in society of each of these rights came only after people fought for them.

The same is true of other things that we now accept as rights. Human Rights Day honours the struggle of so many people who fought and often suffered in support of the rights of people in their society.

Human Rights Day is also a time to reflect on what makes human rights human. Sometimes we can see rights as exclusively human, as if only human beings have rights. In this view we human beings differ from animals, forests and the environment which have no rights. That meaning, however, is too limiting. When we speak of human rights we say something positive and central about ourselves as human beings. We say that human beings are not isolated, disconnected individuals who wear rights as an armour against others, but are persons who are defined by many interlocking relationships to other people, to communities and to the environment of which they are part. Human rights are not things that separate us from other people and our environment, but name what respect means for each all involved in those relationships. To say we have a right is never the end of a conversation. It is the beginning of negotiation as we reflect together on how your rights are to be respected when they comes up against my rights. Arguments about rights are

always most deeply arguments about i dignity of all those involved. The rights is what it means to be human. They tell us what respect for other people's humanity and the world's delicacy means.

Crises always test human rights. This year the Black Lives Matter movement focused attention on the right of Indigenous people to respect for their life and their security in their relationships with police and the justice system. These rights needed to be set alongside the rights of police to protect themselves and the right of the community to be free from fear of threat to their lives or property. They need to be resolved in such a way that respects the human

of one person or group do not wipe out the rights of other persons and groups.

This year, too, showed how difficult it can be to respect human rights if we see them as belonging to individuals without considering the wider context of relationships, The response to the coronavirus needed to take account of the rights of many different groups in society – the rights to appropriate health care, to be kept free from the virus, to be able to work, find housing, support themselves through employment, to move and associate with people freely, and to express their moral and political views. The nature of the threat from the virus, however, meant that in order to respond to it effectively and so to protect both human life and human prosperity, the exercise of many rights was limited by the need to isolate from others. Individual human rights need to find expression in ways that respect the needs of all in society.

At Jesuit Social Services we are constantly called on to defend the rights of young people living on the margins of society. They are often treated without respect. The road to respect means encouraging them to respect others and others to respect them.

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Riverina Melanoma **Ride 2021**

Holy Spirit School, Lavington principal, Matt Kean is organising the ride to raise melanoma awareness and much needed funds.

is to continue to raise awareness of the disease that has affected Matt's life and so many members of the Riverina community.

The ride will be the culmination of a 3 week journey of visits to students at local schools, as well as sporting and community groups in the region spreading the message that 'Prevention is Better Than A Cure'.

Matt would like to invite riders to join the ride from anywhere for a 3km ride through their home town or

The aim of this 1000km bike ride is a whole day if you're able. If possible riders may wish to raise funds through their personal networks to contribute to the fight against melanoma.

> All monies raised will be donated to the Amie St Clair Melanoma Trust and the Melanoma Institute Australia. If you're a business who may wish to sponsor the ride or a rider or may wish to join the ride please make contact.

If you are a community group who would like a 40 minute melanoma awareness presentation contact Matt at the link below.



Matt Kean, Principal Holy Spirit School, Lavington.

To see how you can help, please visit riverinamelanomaride.com







Special Religious Education teachers receive recognition

Over 80 Special Religious Education (SRE) Teachers, Clergy and Religious travelled near and far to Griffith and Wagga for a Child Protection Update, Certificate

Presentation and Luncheons.

by Trevor Dal Broi

The sessions started with a Child Protection Training Update, presented by the Diocese Professional Standards and Safeguarding Officer, Damian Reeves.

Damian informed the SRE Teachers (Catechists) about the changes in NSW to the Reportable Conduct Scheme and Mandatory Reporting from March 2020 and information on Reportable Crimes obligations.

Following Damian's informative training, we were blessed to have Bishop Mark Edwards present certificates to Catechists who have taught SRE for 20 years and over. These Catechists are truly inspirational and some have been teaching for over 50 years! We are very grateful to Bishop Mark Edwards for his attendance and kind words.

The session concluded with delicious lunch. This was a fantastic opportunity for Catechists to share their stories and meet many new people.

Isincerely thank all the SRE Teachers (Catechists) for their attendance and especially to those who travelled up to two and a half hours to attend, truly inspirational! I thank all the Catechists for your many years of dedicated service as a teacher of Special Religious Education. Over the years, the parents of State School Students have expressed the desire for their children to receive Special Religious Education, and we are grateful for you teaching them the Good News, to develop a relationship with God and to feel welcomed and valued members of the Church community.

continued on page 13...



Sr Milada - 29 vears service



Sr Maria Timothy - 27 years service.



Pat Connell - 21 years service.



Jan Cullen receives a certificate for 31 years service.

Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

Over 100 volunteer SRE Teachers generously donate their time each week to teach SRE in public schools in our diocese.

But classes are growing & we need more help.

If you are able to help an hour or two a week please contact

Trevor Dal Broi 0407 537 994

or catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au

Training is provided.

Parishes urgently needing SRE volunteers:

Henty - Darlington Point and Colleambally - Berrigan and Mulwala





Catechists gathered in Griffith for training, ceremony and lunch.

continued from page 12...

Thank you for your time and generosity teaching them the beliefs and practices of the faith.

Finally, to those retiring, please pray for the next generation of Catechists. Please pray that many people, from all walks of life, be a living witness of Christ and a witness of God's love, as you have. As Pope Francis once said "Catechesis is a pillar of faith education and we need good catechists! Thank you for your service to the Church and in the Church. Even if at times it may

be difficult and require a great deal of work and although the results are not always what we hope for, teaching the faith is something beautiful!"

We have a need for many more Catechists in the Diocese and if you are interested in teaching "something beautiful" in 2021, please contact Trevor Dal Broi, Catechist Coordinator on 0407 537 994 or email catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au



Sue O'Kane receives a certificate for 22 years service.



Mary Frances Fletcher - 45 years service.



Julia Papasidero - 23 years service.



Ann Grenda - 20 years service.



Carole Cummins - 25 years service.

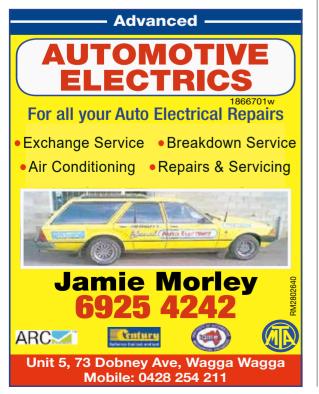
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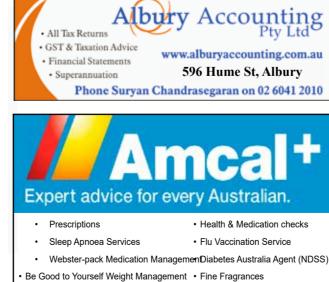
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We have to rise again from the ruins

ACN is helping to rebuild the sisters' convent on the ninth floor of the hospital building.



On the ninth floor of the building, the convent in which nine of the sisters normally live has also been badly damaged.

One wall fell in on top of one of the sisters, wounding her arm. "But no one of them died. It was a miracle because the windows were blown in, scattering broken glass everywhere, and the ceilings in some of the sisters' rooms were also brought down. So that's why, despite my sadness, I give thanks to God and Our Lady of the Rosary for having protected us," Sister Nicolas explains, as she points to, and indeed almost caresses, the picture of Our Lady of the Rosary that is hanging in the hallway of the convent. Another of the sisters, Sister Arlette, relates how she had gone into the bathroom to get some medicine when she heard a voice saying "go out, go out" and that made her take a step backwards, just a moment before the bathroom mirror and the whole of the bathroom ceiling came crashing down.

The hospital is situated in the Gemmayzé suburb of Beirut, less than 500 metres from the port. Before the explosion, it had 200 beds, plus some important and very modern medical facilities and operating theatres on its eighteen floors, nine of them underground and nine overground. But without doubt, the heart of the hospital, its hidden driving force, is the sisters themselves. "The hospital is not an end in itself, it is a means of helping our patients with all our energy and commitment to overcome some of the most difficult phases in their lives, times overshadowed by suffering, uncertainty and fear," explains Sister Nicolas, the hospital director. All of been traumatised. Some of them were from international institutions and

the sisters combine their professional expertise in the various different hospital departments with vocation of pastoral care and human spiritual concern for the patients and also for the hospital staff.

"Without them, the hospital would be a different place; they are the strength behind our work," says Maron Rabash, who has been working for twentyeight years in the hospital. "This hospital, with its Christian ethos, is very necessary for Beirut. Many patients choose to come here because they know that they will be treated in an ethical manner," explains this anaesthetist, still dressed in his scrubs.

The hospital, run by the Sisters of the Rosary, is situated in northeast Beirut in a densely populated quarter of the city. Before the blast, it served many families affected by the economic crisis. "Sometimes they couldn't pay, so I asked them to pay half the cost, which was still impossible for many, so I said whatever they could afford or to pay in instalments," Sister Nicolas explains. "This hospital was the Pearl of Beirut, and our chapel is the Pearl of the hospital. That's where everyone could go: the staff -80 doctors and 92 nurses – the patients and their family members, whenever they wanted to gain new strength, seek counsel and regain hope."

At the moment only two floors in the hospital are still able to function. They have managed to repair one of the lifts so that they can take the patients upstairs to the operating theatre and for Covid tests. Sister Clotilde, the sister in charge of the nursing department, tells us that many of the nurses have



wounded and Jacqueline, a 60-year-old nurse, died as a result of the explosion. Her photograph stands at the entrance to the hospital, with a candle burning in front of it, accompanying her in prayer.

The sisters are used to difficult times. They still retain vivid memories of the experience of the last civil war. "Owing to our situation on the boundary between areas of different religions, our hospital was the place of refuge for all the patients without any discrimination. We gave all their time and devotion to caring for all the patients, even during the most difficult times, when there was no bread or other food available for several months."

The sisters are seeking funding

governments so that they can rebuild hospital. The international Catholic pastoral charity and pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International) has promised help to repair the sisters' convent. Sister Nicolas has sent the following message to ACN's benefactors: "I know that God is with us. I see it in the hands of so many people who have not forgotten us. With your help, we will be able to continue our work and start over again. We have to rise again from the ruins. Our Lady of the Holy Rosary will guide us in our work."

To donate to Aid to the Church in **Need's National emergency appeal** for Lebanon visit https://aidtochurch.org/Lebanon

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COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols Effective Monday 7 December 2020 **Effective**

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

- a. Attendance at Places of Worship is limited to one person per two square metres (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers) with 25 people permitted before the rule applies.
- b. Physical distancing is to be practiced. People from different households are to remain 1.5m

3. Hygiene practices

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

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

a. Name, phone number and/or email to be recorded.

b. To be kept in a safe place (respecting privacy laws) for at

5. Eucharist

least 28 days.

- a. Holy Communion in the hand only.
- b. Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- c. No touching at the sign of peace.
- d. No offertory procession.
- e. No collection plates are to be used. Collection points and electronic donations preferred.

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.

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

8. Singing

- a. Choirs of up to 50 people are permitted indoors and are to practice social distancing (see Item 2b). There is no maximum cap on choirs outdoors.
- b. Congregational singing is permitted - wearing masks while singing is optional.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI

Bishop of Wagga Wagga



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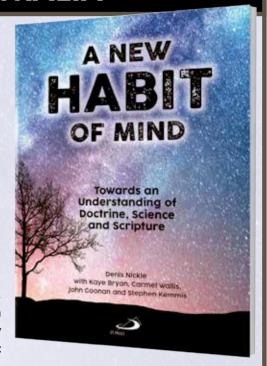
ANEW HABIT OF MIND

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Denis Nickle with Kaye Bryan, Carmel Wallis, John Goonan and Stephen Kemmis

Many Catholics, particularly parents, teachers and others involved in faith formation, can be disconcerted by advances in knowledge and scientific developments which appear to conflict with their own recollection or understanding of Catholic doctrine.

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SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

We offer individual, couples or family counselling sessions to help support you to achieve a better sense of wellbeing. This is available for all people at any age of their life.

Our Mental Health Nurse, can also assist with community based nursing support for people who are experiencing severe or complex mental health (*Service limited to Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera)

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 coparent. We can also support you with navigating the Family Law systems through councelling and advocacy.

LET US SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN?

Your Centacare NDIS coordinator will work with you to:

- » Find quality supports
- » Link you with the right providers
- » Assist with coordination of a range of supports tailored for your needs
- » Build your capacity to self manage and reach set personal goals
- » Provide you with support and encouragement with social and community access

SUPPORT FOR WORK STRESS

We can talk with your workplace to help you develop an Employment Assistance Program (EAP), which offers short term counselling sessions for staff to talk through difficulties that they might be facing.

Your workplace doesn't offer EAP? That is okay, call us to book an appointment with one of our counsellors.

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?

Our settlement, Engagement and Transition Support team (SETS), can help you to feel better connected and supported in your community.

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.

Vinnies loses two-thirds of its workforce to COVID

Vinnies are making an impassioned plea for more volunteers, after having lost more than two-thirds of its workforce since COVID.

by Kenji Sato

Retail area manager Guy Rowe said the majority of their volunteers were on work-for-the-dole programs, which had been suspended as a result of the pandemic.

The program was replaced with alternative schemes such as JobSeeker and JobKeeper.

Mr Rowe said the shop had been enjoying a noticeable increase in donations leading up to Christmas, but needed more members of the community to come on board to help deal with the sudden influx.

"There are probably 10 per day in the store at the moment, when normally we would have had 30 or more in the store," Mr Rowe said.

"I think it's tough for everybody, not just Vinnies. Everybody's suffering."

He said the staffing shortages had meant the remaining workers were constantly stretched to meet the demand, and they needed more helping hands to lighten the load.

Store manager Cassandra Nicholson said the volume of donations always increased around Christmas, but that the volume this year was especially high. "It's not slowing down at all because people have been home more with COVID they're clearing out their closets which is wonderful for us, but it's increased the volume and on a daily basis it's a massive workload," Ms Nicholson said.

Ms Nicholson said the remaining workers had been struggling to keep up with the sheer volume, but that they did at least have the help of some new recruits who joined during lockdown.

She said many of them had lost their jobs due to COVID and had chosen to dedicate their newfound free time to helping out their local Vinnies branch.

"The upside is the number of men and women who come forward because they feel they want to contribute, and that's been a real upside to the number of volunteers we've had at the moment," Ms Nicholson said.

"Quite a few here are motivated, they're looking for a personal purpose, and they're finding that here."

Those interested in becoming volunteers can contact Cassandra Nicholson on Cassandra.Nicholson@vinnies.org.au or by calling 6923 1912.



Above: Retail Area Manager, Guy Rowe and Cassandra Nicholson.

Below: Cassandra Nicholson and volunteer Karyn Ross. Pictures: Kenji Sato







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.

The Place of the Kyriale

The Place of the Kyriale - The Ordinary of the Mass In Catholic History, Liturgy, and Music is the latest work from Sr Marie Therese Levey rsj.

This is the story of those sung prayers of the Ordinary from their beginnings, across the two millennium of Catholic religio-political history, their development in Western music theory and notation, their plainchant congregational loss in the renaissance-reformation years, and their restoration as the peoples' parts in the twentieth century, especially by the Second Vatican Council.

The prayers of the *Ordinary of the Mass*, the *Kyriale*, have formed a type of spiritual chain which has linked all of the prayers of the Mass together since the first years of Christianity, down through the Middle Ages, and to the present day.

The current work is a response by the author to the need expressed by choral singers, parish musicians and scholars of music history, to know more about the origin and sources of the people's sung parts of the Mass.

The story will take the reader back over the centuries to meet church leaders who contributed to the *Kyriale* - Ss Gregory I the Great, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, Dominic of Osma, and others who loved praising God in song. You will also meet those who made life difficult for them.

The work is full of stories of "saints and sinners very human figures (who) come alive in these pages" (Foreword by Rev. M Walsh CM).

The work is in four parts:

- I. Singing from Memory.
- II. Diastematic Notation.
- III. The Age of the Printed Book.
- IV. Restoration of Gregorian Chant.

The final section, on the Restoration

of Gregorian Chant, concerns the work of those monks who, often without a permanent home, painstakingly transcribed the ancient melodies from their original sources and left us, not only with the first official Vatican edition of the chant, but as well, left photographic evidence of the authenticity of their research.

Today when Catholics prepare the Eucharistic liturgy for a special celebration, the question sometimes arises: "Which Mass will we sing"? What they usually mean is "Which musical setting will we sing for the *Ordinary of the Mass?*"

In the early twentieth century when Pope St Pius X set up a Commission for the first official printed editions of Gregorian Chant, he asked that those responsible produce first an edition of the *Kyriale*, or the Ordinary of the Mass.

Sacrosanctum the document Concilium of the Second Vatican Council, the faithful are exhorted "to sing together those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them". The present work is the story of those sung prayers of the Ordinary, their development in Western music theory and notation, their plainchant congregational loss in the renaissance-reformation years, and their restoration as the people's parts in the twentieth century, especially by the Second Vatican Council. Marie Therese Levey is a Sister of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart who, for most of her life, has contributed to parish music as organist, cantor and choir leader. Her PhD was based on a collection of thirteenth century Portuguese manuscripts leading to the bibliography.



Above: Sr Marie Levey RSJ, a leading expert in Gregorian chant. Below: Sr Marie Levey RSJ holding the 16th Century Vellum 'Tu mandasti ' Photos by Giovanni Portelli

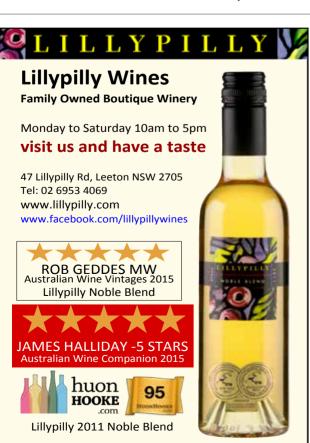
dissertation Migration of the Liturgy of the Divine Office of the Roman Rite into Portugal.

For twenty years Dr Levey was musical director of The Gregorian Schola of Sydney. This led to her becoming aware of the need for more information on the music for the Ordinary of the Mass prior to the age of print. The present study is an attempt at responding to that need, and at acknowledging the efforts of those who took part in the restoration of Gregorian Chant in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She is a Sister of Saint Joseph, a musicologist, church musician, and retired teacher of piano, violin and theory. Most of her time is given to research into Gregorian Chant. She has amassed a collection of digitized medieval manuscripts and which she studies for search, discovery, and writing.

The book is 207 pages and includes selected manuscript images, indexes and bibliography.



All postal orders should be addressed to: Congregational Administration Centre PO Box 1508
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Albury golfer Sam Bakes wins first open-age tournament in the

Tocumwal Open

Xavier High schoolboy Sam Bakes has claimed his first open-age tournament. The 15-year-old snared the Tocumwal Open in a field of 140 players.

by Andrew Moir - The Border Mail

Bakes fired a one-under par 143 in the 36-hole event to win from long-time Border star Nathan Schneider (149), rising Wodonga talent Daniel Gill (150) and Thurgoona's Luke Porritt (153).

"I think the thing that pleased me the most was I didn't get away to a great start on both days, but I managed to make birdies and get on a roll," he said.

"My short game probably saved me, improvement.

that's probably the best I've chipped and putted."

It's a major step in the teen's career as it's always harder to win open-age tournaments.

"He sent me a message to say he was a bit disappointed and I like that, I like the fact that he won and still wants to improve," coach John Rogers said.

Like all aspiring golfers, Rogers says tournament play is the key to improvement.



Albury golfer Sam Bakes showed his rising maturity in claiming the Tocumwal Open at open-age level.

Come to Bethlehem has been cancelled

Sadly, due to Covid-19 restrictions the annual *Come to Bethlehem* event has had to be cancelled.

Come to Bethlehem has been an annual event since 2003 and this will be the first year it hasn't run during that time. The event has attracted over 35,000 patrons since it's beginning and has always been a favourite

Christmas event amongst families who travel from near and far.

The West Wagga Wagga Catholic Parish that organises the event are sure to be back next year with all the fantastic activities we've come to know and love as part of our Christmas tradition.







Shop 10 Neslo Arcade, 117 Baylis Street Wagga Wagga Ph 6921 7813

CATERING AVAILABLE -

St Patrick's School, Albury







St Patrick's School Year 3 students loved sharing lunch with Father Joel, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Fawcett in preparation for their First Eucharist.

All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba

Thank you to Kristy McBain MP Member for Eden-Monaro, for kindly donating much needed new flags and for her generous donation and certificates for Presentation Day.





Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga



Mater Dei Primary School celebrated NAIDOC week. They thank their Year 6 captains for leading in a thoughtful liturgy and flag raising ceremony. The school were then joined by Shane and Talea from NSW National Parks and Wildlife who shared stories, language and traditions from the First Nations People.







St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali

Stage 3 students headed out to Borambola where students enjoyed raft building, fencing, kayaking, orienteering, archery and even a mud run.





St Joseph's School, Junee

The St Joseph's students received a much needed ice block in this hot weather. Thanks for cooling them all down a little bit Mrs Sweeney!



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga



Mater Dei Catholic College students delivered their baking to St Vincent De Paul's Micah Hub as part of their contribution to the Religious Education service in the community project.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally



St Peter's Primary K/1/2 students had a great time doing their 'Cloud in the jar' experiments.



St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn



St Joseph's celebrated Socktober with all money raised going towards Catholic Mission. A total of \$225 was donated. Thank you to the 4/5/6 class who organised and ran the stalls.





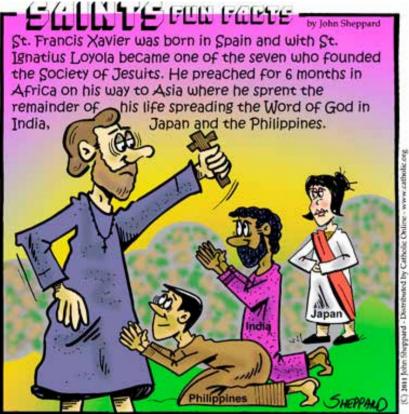
St Mary's School, Corowa

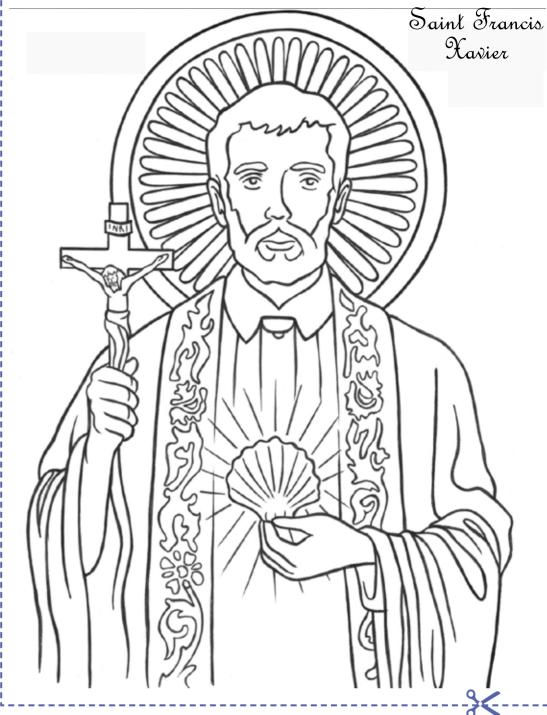


There were some fantastic costumes on display for Book Week. Congratulations to Blue House on winning the Book Week House Team Trivia Challenge!









Make an **Advent** wreath for **your home**

3 **Draw your Donate** family

Do a random Read a story Make a act of Christmas about St kindness **Nicholas** decoration

Bake **Christmas** cookies

Say the **Hail Mary** Call or skype a loved one

10 Write Christmas cards

Special people we pray for

Tell the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

13 **SMILE**

14 Sing "Silent Night"

is lonely

16 Mend a quarrel

21

Make peace

today

Help clean

22 23 Visit the What gift Christmas will you give display at church Jesus?

18

Encourage

24 Read the Christmas story

Tell your

family you

love them

20

Name gifts

your family

members

share



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!

DECEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

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



St. Francis Xavier St. Nicholas

St. Ambrose

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

St. Juan Diego Our Lady of Guadalupe

St. Lucy St. John of the **Cross**

Nativity of the Lord St. Stephen

St. John **Holy** Innocents

St. **Thomas** Becket **Holy Family**

St. Sylvester I

Holy Communions and Confirmations







Congratulations to the Confirmation candidates of 2021

Please continue to pray for the 72 children and their families that they may be strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live as active members of the Church, particularly in our faith community of Sacred Heart Griffith.







Pictured left:

Congratulations to the St Mary's Yoogali students on making their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful ceremony!

Pictured above and below:

Congratulations also to all of the students community.

at St Mary's Yoogali who made their Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a beautiful ceremony and we share a heartfelt thank you to the Year 6 families and students on their lovely gift to the school community.



Holy Communions and Confirmations

On behalf of All Saints' School, congratulations to Chiara, Claire and Stacey who received the sacrament of Confirmation on 18 November. Their parents, sponsors and 5/6 were in attendance.

All Saints' Primary School also congratulate Therese, Ruby, Isaac, Emma and Cecile on making your First Holy Communion.

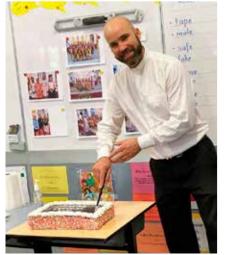








Congratulations to the St Joseph's Primary School Year 3 students who made their First Holy Communion. They are especially grateful to Fr Reece who supported them through their sacramental preparation.









Congratulations to the students from St Mary's School, Corowa who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a wonderful ceremony for all the students, sponsors, family and Parish members who were in attendance.



Christmas in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga will, by necessity, look a little different this year.

In most parishes, parishioners will be asked to pre-book into a scheduled Mass time with their local parish. Attendance numbers will be capped according to the size of the Church and extra Masses will be scheduled to accommodate more people.

The Diocesan webpage has links or contact details to all the parishes: www.wagga.catholic.org.au

Each parish will have their own booking system so please contact your local parish to book in to a Mass time that suits you.

To keep all our people safe and healthy, the parishes in our diocese will be using the following processes:

ATTENDING MASS

• The 2 square metre rule applies across the board – indoors, attendees must be seated. Standing is allowed for outdoor events.

MUSIC

- A choir of up to 50 people may sing indoors or outdoors (social distancing applies).
- Congregational singing is permitted indoors and outdoors subject to anyone over 12 years of age wearing facemasks.

COLLECTIONS

• Collections will be taken in a COVID-safe manner.

NATIVITY PLAYS

• Nativity plays during Mass are not allowed, unfortunately.

HYGIENE

- All attending are to sanitise their hands prior to entering the place of worship.
- Holy Communion will only be given under one kind (the Body of Christ) and on the hand.
- The Celebrant and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will wear facemasks while distributing Holy Communion.
- COVID-19 Marshalls will be appointed in each parish.
- Hymn books will not be used single-use hymn/carol sheets may be provided instead.
- Handing out of gifts and treats after Mass is not allowed.

CONTACT TRACING

• All parishes will have records kept for contact tracing. Such records can be created through the booking system, via a QR code or by writing our details on paper.

We do look forward to celebrating with you. It is going to be great. Please invite your family and come.

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 - Kooringal

Sacred Heart Lake Albert Road, Kooringal Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm Sunday - 8:00am and 10:00am

Weekday Masses Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:45pm Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am Saturday - 9:30am

Reconciliation

Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am Changes to Mass times will be on Chapel door.

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)

Nan Roberts Nursing Home

- The Haven 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am

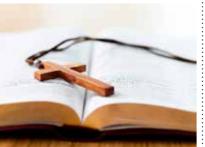
RSL Rememberance Village 2nd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

Holy Trinity Church

Bardia Street Ashmont Monday - Saturday - 7:00am Sunday - 9:00am, 10:30am and 5:30pm Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm



TOGETHER - DECEMBER 2020

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 Confessisons

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

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 2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am

Savernake

1st Sunday - 5:00pm

Weekday Masses are announced in the

Confessions before Saturday Vigil Masses

Coolamon

Sunday - 7.30am and 9.00am **Confessions**

Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7.30am

Thursday - 10.15am Saturday - 9.00am

Marrar Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm

Confessions 1st Saturday - 5.30pm

Mass at 9.15am

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)

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

1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm 2nd Sunday - 8.00 am

4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am

Phone parish for details

Before Mass on weekends

St Francis De Sales Church of the **Pioneers**

2nd Sunday - 11:30am

Howlong

St Brigid's

Hovell St, Howlong **Church of the Good Shepherd** Queen Street, Walbundrie **Weekend Mass Times**

Walbundrie

Sunday - 9:00am Masses

Home 10:00 am

Saturday 9.00 am - Howlong For other Masses during the week, see

Reconciliation

Howlong

Saturdays 9:30am (after 9:00am Mass)

Sundays 8:30am - 8:55am

Jerilderie

Coreen Street, Jerilderie 1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm

Weekday Masses

Are announced in the Sunday bulletin

Junee

21 Kitchener Street, Junee

Weekday Masses

Saturday - 10:30-11:00am; 6:00-6:15pm or by appointment Illabo and Junee Reefs

Alternate Sundays - 8:00am

Church of St Joseph the Worker Sunday - 9.00 am

Prior to Sunday Mass

Wade Avenue, Leeton Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)

St Patrick's Yanco Sunday - 8:00am

Weekday Masses in Leeton Monday - 9:00am

Thursday - 9:30am (Assumption Villa) Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm

Friday - 4:45-5:15pm Saturday - 5:30-5:50pm

Eucharistic Adoration St Joseph's Church Leeton

Our Lady of Sorrows 125 Albury Street, Holbrook

Weekday Masses

Confessions

Hume Highway, Bowna

Howlong Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm

Howlong 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Oolong Nursing

the parish website.

5:30pm - 5:55pm Walbundrie

St Joseph's

2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am

St Joseph's

Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm Sunday - 9:30am

Monday - 9:00am Tuesday - 7:00am

Wednesday - 9:00am Thursday - 7:00am Friday - 9:00am

Confessions

Khancoban

Weekday Masses 9.00 am Confessions

Leeton

St Joseph's Leeton

Tuesday - 9:00am

Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am Wednesday - 9:00am

Sacrament of Penance

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 Joseph's

St Brigid's Havelock Street, Mulwala

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am 2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil

Weekday Masses Refer to parish notices

Weekend Masses

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

2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am

Tarcutta St Francis Xavier Sydney Street, Tarcutta

Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm

Sunday - 8:30am

Ladysmith

Confessions

St Kevin's Church

Galore

Before all Masses

The Rock

Confessions

St Peter's

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

Up to 5 minutes before Mass.

Tocumwal

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 27...

Aged Care Facility Masses Forrest Centre Every Thursday - 11:00am

Confessions Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

Benedict Avenue San Isidore

St Michael's

Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm

Allawah Village

Mgr Leo Cecil Hatswell

Please pray for those priests whose anniversary of death occurs in December:

Tumbarumba

All Saints' 40 Murray Street, Tumbarumba Saturday 9.15am Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm Sunday - 9.00am Weekday Masses Monday - Friday - 5.30pm Confessions Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am

4th Sunday - 7.30am **Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**

And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma

Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am

Urana

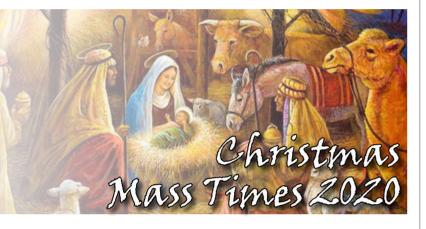
St Fiacre's Church 5 End St, Urana Weekend Masses 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am 2nd & 4th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm Weekday Masses Thursday - 12:30pm Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 10:00am

Oaklands

Yenda - Thursday, before Mass Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass Hanwood - Saturday - 4:30pm Or by arrangement with the priest.

Please note that Mass times were true and correct at the time of printing. For further clarification, please check parish bulletins and noticeboards closer to the date.



Due to COVID-19 regulations changing regularly please check parish bulletins and noticeboards for their Christmas Mass Times.

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii 17 Edon Street, Yoogali Sunday - 9:30am

St Anthony's - Hanwood Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm Sunday - 8.00am St Therese's - Yenda

Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm Weekday Masses

Tuesday - 5:30pm - Yoogali Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda Friday - 9:30am - Yoogali

Confessions



4 December 1991

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Family reflections for: Dec

6th December - Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

The season of Advent invites us to renew our lives in preparation for the coming of Jesus. The people who heard the message of John the Baptist repented for their sins and were baptized as a sign of God's forgiveness. In Baptism, our sins are forgiven, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in our life of discipleship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we use this Advent season to renew our lives so that we, like John the Baptist, might prepare the way for Jesus.

As you gather together as a family, talk about ways in which the example of others has called you to be a follower of Jesus. Name the people who have been examples to you of Christian discipleship and describe their characteristics that you have tried to emulate. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:1-8.

As John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, Baptism commissions us to prepare the way of the Lord. The gift of the Holy Spirit leads us to continually renew our lives so that we might lead others to Jesus. As a family, identify at least one action that you will take this week to try to be more faithful followers of Jesus. Conclude in prayer together that God will receive this action and use it to lead others to Jesus. Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

> Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11 Psalm 85:9-14 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

13th December - Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

As you gather as a family, recall that during the Advent season we are invited to pay particular attention to the signs of Jesus' presence in our world. Consider some of the signs of Jesus' presence that you have experienced. During Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Read together today's Gospel, John 1:6-8,19-28. Discuss the signs of Jesus' presence in our world that you named and explain what these signs tell us about God and God's love for us. Pray together that your family will be led to recognize that Jesus is present among us. Read and pray together the psalm for today's Mass, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55).

> Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11 Luke 1:46-50,53-54 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

20th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

One of the challenges of faith is to recognize God's plan for us and to remain open to God's will and God's actions in our world. Filled with God's grace, Mary models for us the kind of faith that is needed to cooperate in God's plan of salvation. Like Mary, we are given the awesome opportunity to cooperate in God's saving plan. On this final Sunday of Advent, our Gospel invites us to consider how our preparations for Christmas have made us more aware of God's grace working

Gather together your family and talk about what you have been doing as a family to prepare for Christmas. How have these preparations helped you to better celebrate the central mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation? Our Gospel today talks about how Mary was prepared for her role in Christ's birth. Read today's Gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Consider the question: What enabled Mary to say yes to God? Which of your Advent activities have made you more aware of God's grace in your life? Conclude in prayer together that God's grace will enable your family to be more faithful and obedient to God. Pray together the Magnificat. 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Psalm 89:2-5,27,29 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

27th December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Cycle B

Today's celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family highlights the importance of family in our religious life.

We know that Mary and Joseph's faithfulness to God enabled them to cooperate in God's plan for our salvation by accepting the responsibility to raise God's Son, Jesus. From his parents, Jesus learned how to be a faithful believer in his Jewish tradition. Simeon's prophecy about Mary's sorrow alerts us to the importance of a family's commitment to one another, a commitment that is expressed in both good times and bad.

Gather as a family and recall times when your family showed its commitment to one another in good times and in bad. Recall times when your immediate family was supported by members of your extended family. Note that today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, and we see in the family of Jesus an example for our own family life. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 2:22-40. Joseph and Mary expressed their faithfulness to God through their observance of the Law of Moses. Simeon prophesied the grief that Mary would experience at the foot of Jesus' cross. One of the blessings of family life is our commitment to one another, sharing good times and supporting one another through difficult times. Conclude in prayer together thanking God for the grace expressed in your family's commitment to another. Write a prayer together, thanking God for your family life and asking God to strengthen your family's commitment to one another. Pray this prayer together.

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Psalm 105:1-6,8-9 Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19 Luke 2:22-40

St Vincent de Paul Society 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:
www.vinnies.org.au/donate
or call 13 18 12
or visit any local Vinnies Shop

HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP THIS YEAR:



1.3 MILLION PEOPLE ASSISTED



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