



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

wagga.catholic.org.au

FREE

- February 2018 -

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DEACONS  
FOR VIANNEY**



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ARE DOING IT  
TOUGH**



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ANGEL  
BOOK LAUNCH**



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## Long journey of grace

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga received a new deacon in February when Jomer Calma was ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Christopher Prowse.

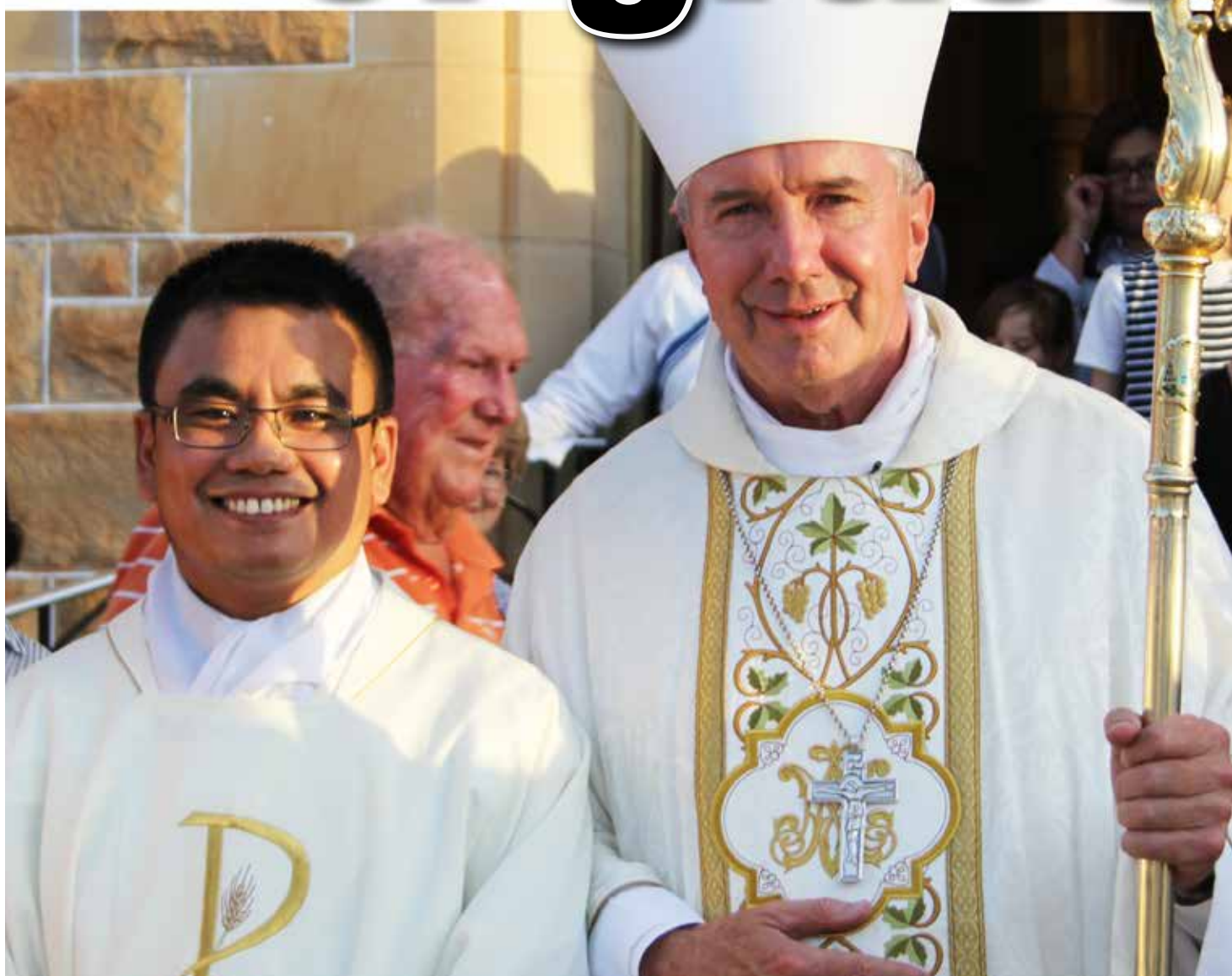
**J**omer hails from Masinlec, in the Zambales province of the Philippines being the eldest of six children of the late Oscar Calma and of Mrs Merlina Calma. He came to Wagga in 2011 where he lived for some months with the Confraternity of Christ the Priest in San Isidore.

Jomer was accepted as a seminarian for the Wagga Diocese in 2012 and began his formation at Vianney College. During his years at Vianney College he did short placements in the parishes of Thurgoona, Leeton, Koorringal and a longer (6 months) placement at St Patrick's Albury. He also served as assistant to the Secretary General of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference for a period of about one year.

Jomer's diaconal ordination was a joyful occasion and was attended by friends and parishioners, among whom were many members of the Filipino community. About 15 priests of the diocese joined the Archbishop in concelebrating the Mass which was served by Jomer's brother seminarians from Vianney College, who also led the singing under Mr John Sloan. The Serrans of Wagga, as usual, gave generous support and especially by providing refreshments in the parish centre afterwards.

Deacon Jomer will return to Vianney College for his final year of formation, which will then continue in a parish in 2019. It is expected that Jomer will be ordained a priest during 2019.

*continued on page 4...*



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### Prayer for the election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd,  
who govern Your flock with unfailing care,  
grant in Your boundless fatherly love  
a Bishop for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga  
who will please You by his holiness  
and to us show watchful care.  
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. Amen.



# Faith and culture in Australia

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**  
Apostolic Administrator  
of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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## SOME PUBLIC ISSUES OF 2017:

IN a healthy society **faith and culture** are kept in a respectful friendship. Fundamental human rights of religion and freedom of speech are respected. Faith offers many transcendent gifts to culture, including profound ethical dimensions to the questions a culture raises. A dynamic understanding of culture assists faith to remain “young” and comprehensible to newer generations.

One of the great dramas of our day is the widening gap between faith and culture in the Western World and especially noticeable in Australian society. We are sometimes called, therefore, one of the most secular societies in the world!

We see this gap widening in some of the many political debates over the past year. There

were the issues of **same-sex marriage, euthanasia, sexual dysphoria, refugees**, to name just a few.

The “friendship” between faith and culture in Australia in past times seems unlikely to deepen in times ahead. There are, and will be, many more practical and challenging implications for the Catholic Church.

**The Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse** shames and humiliates us all. Our hearts go out to the wounded and courageous victims.

Along with all of Catholic Australia, this Archdiocese will examine carefully recommendations of the Royal Commission and pledges to do all we can to prevent such abuse ever repeating itself in the future.

I am particularly pleased with the introduction of the national **Catholic Professional**

**Standards** structure which will be a real help to expand and audit our extensive policies regarding professional standards and safeguarding.

In a sincere and prayerful gesture to seek the Holy Spirit’s healing in these sensitive times, **4 Days of Prayer, Fasting and Reparation** for all victims will take place beginning on **ASH WEDNESDAY, February 14 this year.**

## PLENARY COUNCIL 2020 - 2021:

Over the next period of time we will hear more about our participation in a major Australian Catholic Church pastoral initiative seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the years ahead. As mentioned to you previously, it is called a **Plenary Council**. It will culminate in two national gatherings – one in the

latter part of 2020 and another in 2021. It is a time of ecclesial co-discernment, walking together, and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move into the “new world” now present among us in Australia.

## JESUS AMONG US:

Let us place our Archdiocese at the start of 2018 under the care and protection of Mary, Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia. We have many and varied sincere opinions and thoughts about being Catholic in a “changed” Australian society. However, in our depths, we are united in our common belief that is in our encounter with Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour, that our lives find deepest meaning, joy and hope.

***Let us pray for each other as 2018 opens up to us all.***

# Prayer Intention for February

## Pray with Pope Francis

### Universal: Say “No” to Corruption

That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**

**APOSTOLIC SHIP OF PRAYER**

[www.popesprayerusa.net/2017-intentions/](http://www.popesprayerusa.net/2017-intentions/)

## Points for Meditation

*Have I been tempted by the lure of riches, be they material, financial or social? Am I in business relationships or friendships with individuals who are abusing power and influence? How might I challenge them, or extricate myself from these webs?*

## Scripture

*Ephesians 4:20-24 That is not how you learned Christ...as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.*

**Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his February prayer:**

<http://popesprayerusa.net/2018/02/01/february-pope-video-say-no-corruption/>



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# Vale Father Flanagan

**Fr. Kevin James Flanagan was born on 26 August 1928 at Tocumwal, the fifth child of James and Elizabeth Flanagan. His siblings were Noel, John, Kathleen and Dorothy.**

His grandparents had emigrated as children in the 1850's from Ireland, as a result of the Great Famine.

In 1916, Kevin's parents married and purchased a store at Tocumwal that was a grocery, iron mongery and drapery.

They were careful and diligent in making the Flanagan Railway Store a leading business in Tocumwal.

With an ecumenical perspective on life to be inherited by Kevin, his father also went into partnership with Dick Sheldrick, a staunch Freemason, in owning and operating the local cinema.

Kevin's parents were guided by five fundamental criteria for their children: their Faith, a strong work ethic, the importance of education, active participation in both sport and community and a genuine concern for others less fortunate.

Kevin followed his elder brothers, Noel and John, in boarding at St Patrick's College, Ballarat. His elder sisters Kath and Dorothy boarded at nearby Loreto Abbey.

Upon decline of his father's health in the early 1950's and death in 1954, Kevin and Kath continued to run the family store for some years before it was sold. He enjoyed his sport, especially swimming and boxing. He was proficient in dancing.

## Vocation

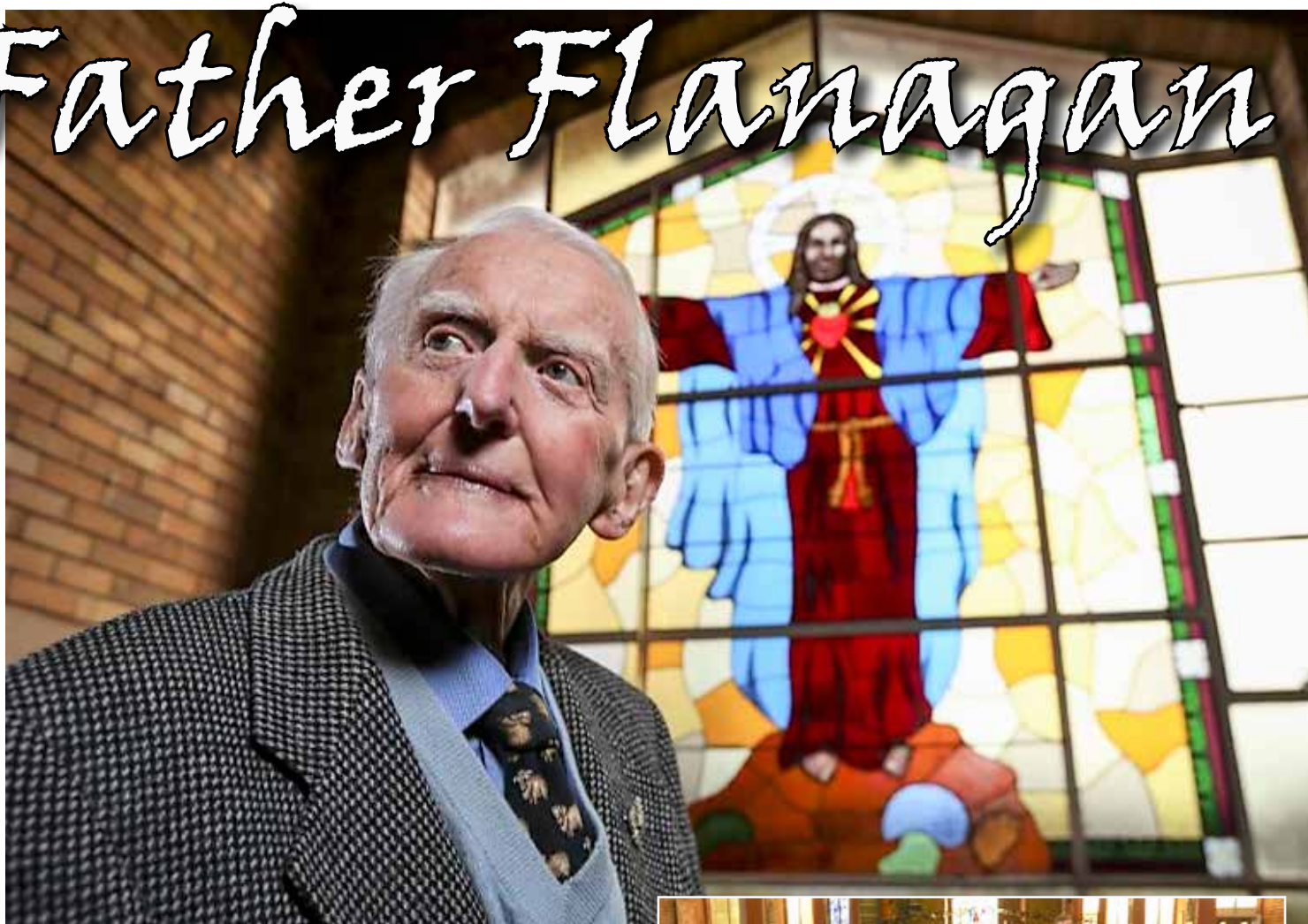
Kevin told me that Fr. Brendan Byrne SJ; Sr. Moya Byrne of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters and Sr. Anne Byrne of the Loreto Sisters had significant and ongoing influence upon his vocation.

He said Moya Byrne confided with him that she was contemplating becoming a missionary nun and challenged him by asking, if as he claimed God had been so good to him with the lifestyle he then enjoyed, had he considered devoting his own life in return? This, he said, put his vocation in life into real focus.

Initially, like Moya, he had wanted to be a missionary. He was interested in other peoples and their culture and considered joining the Columbans, before finally choosing to be a diocesan priest.

In 1956, Kevin entered the priesthood. He studied at Springwood in the Blue Mountains and St Patrick's in Manly NSW.

On 22 July 1963, Kevin was ordained at St



Peter's Tocumwal, by Bishop Henschke.

His ordination was at an important time for Christianity. The first such meeting in over four centuries since the Reformation between Pope (now St John XXIII) and Archbishop of Canterbury (Geoffrey Fisher), and the Second Vatican Council, occurred. One of its Decrees was *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the *Restoration of Unity* among all Christians and also known as the *Decree on Ecumenism*.

Kevin spoke of its influence in these terms: *"In the immediate years after Vatican II, the Church was undergoing rapid changes, many of which appealed to me greatly, the English liturgy, the opening up of personal conscience and a greater appreciation of other people's religious beliefs."* Kevin put ecumenism into practice, by action rather than simply theological exploration.

He served at Narrandera, South Wagga, Albury and Wagga Cathedral. For some four years, he was a missionary with others of different denominations of the Christian faith, in the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea. He found this period amongst the most enriching of his life and described the mission in his thatched church as *"vibrant, not cluttered with tradition nor just a regimented way in which sacrificial life is dispensed."*

In 1977, he was appointed Parish Priest at North Albury, where he remained until his retirement on 23 July 2017.

His missionary experience enhanced his skills and he enjoyed a wonderful relationship of trust and mutual respect with the Aboriginal Community, as evidenced by his inclusiveness of their customs and traditions in his Services.

Kevin's involvement in sport and the community

resulted in lasting friendships and impact on many.

I recall seeing him in one of his Murray River marathons, in the late 1980's. He was with either Dr Lex Bartram, orthopaedic surgeon, in a canoe named "Body and Soul" or Fr. Gerry Iverson in a canoe named "Soul Mates". They had studied at St Patrick's seminary and trekked in Tibet and Nepal.

In 1998 at Cooma, the Bartrams, Bakers and Pikes, friends of Kevin through kayaking, were killed in an air crash. He reached out to all families in their time of need. As I recall, he conducted the funerals of all and none were Catholic.

He explained that part of his vocation: *"My love of God had a practical edge, in that being reared in a small country town, everyone's life was of value and sport and social life fitted just as easily into my concept of God. So it was no great surprise that I wanted to serve the Lord."*

In 2003 Brian Waters, as Chairman of the Parish Council, said of Kevin: *"He's a friend to everybody and a very gentle person. He has that ability to relate to people no matter what their circumstances, whether in the depths of sorrow at the death of a loved one or in any social setting. As a police chaplain, he can relate to anyone who is traumatised – he has that human ability to relate to other people."*

Clearly, Brian was correct. Kevin's spirituality drove his cultivation of friendship. He could see the beauty of God's creation in all who crossed his path. His Faith underpinned his deep respect for people.

In 2009, he conducted a memorial service at Quamby House, the St Vincent de Paul shelter, for the life of a homeless man, named Wayne Markham.

At this simple service Kevin said: *"The rootlessness of his life, that we couldn't really*



*Father Flanagan with students at St Anne's School.*

*explain... was a part of who he was. We all come from different backgrounds to this Service because we were good to him and we loved him. Let the Lord reward him for all the good, loving, challenging, caring things that he brought into our lives".*

Those powerful words spoken by Kevin, as a Christian, demonstrate how effective he was in proclaiming his Faith. A homeless man who had wandered the streets of Albury for some 20 years, would have had no idea, that in God's scheme, he had brought things of worth into the lives of others, for which God should reward him.

## St Anne's School

Kevin was proud of his Irish heritage. He was the first to have a House named in his honour at St. Anne's school. The official colour of Flanagan House is of course green. On 'Flanagan Day', celebrated on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the students may wear green casual clothing.

He was proud that St Anne's was an integral part of the Parish. He valued and appreciated his lasting personal friendships with the students, whilst there and later as parishioners.

At the wedding of our daughter Amy, Kevin recounted an event that occurred when he was camping in the bush, with our family and friends. He was delighted that Amy, as a five year old, introduced him to fellow campers, by saying: *"This is Kevin, he is my friend and a priest"*.

Similarly, many St Anne's students would have regarded him as a friend and a priest.

*continued on page 16...*



*Fr Flanagan had a love for sports, especially swimming and boxing.*



# Long journey of grace

*continued from page 1...*

Three more seminarians from Vianney College were ordained to the diaconate at St Carthage's Cathedral, Lismore, by Bishop Gregory Homeming, on Monday, 29th January. They are Wilber Tobe, Anselm Okeke and Emmanuel Okparanaku. They are all currently serving on placement in parishes in the Lismore diocese.

And finally Wagga will witness its first ordination to the priesthood for over 2 years on 13th April when Deacon Paul Lu will be ordained to the priesthood at St Michael's Cathedral at 7:00 pm by Bishop Michael Kennedy of Armidale. A full report on Paul and his ordination ceremony will appear following his ordination.

## Homily

**Ordination to the  
Diaconate  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga**  
Archbishop  
Christopher Prowse  
*Catholic Archbishop of  
Canberra & Goulburn*  
Thursday 15th February  
2018  
St Michael's Cathedral

**Readings:**  
**Numbers 3:5-9**  
**1 Timothy 4:12-16**  
**Matthew 20:25-28**

On this day after Ash Wednesday in the penitential spirit of Lent we come humbly to ordain our dear brother, Jomer Calma, to the Diaconate here at Wagga.

Our dear brother Jomer, you have been graced in your life with the presence of God in so many different ways. In this Mass we think, in a particular way, about your parents, family and loved ones in the Philippines. I know they are praying with us now spiritually at this time and we join with them in their intentions in this beautiful Mass of Ordination.

It has been a long journey of grace to bring you to this moment. Please God, the journey will continue, particularly the journey to the Priesthood in the times ahead.

On this evening you receive the first Order of the Sacrament of Holy Orders – The Diaconate.

The word “Grace” is so appropriate. It's a gift from God. Yes of course, you have tried your very best over the years to respond to the demands and pastoral challenges in your years of formation which will continue. But ultimately, deep down within, it is the subtle but sure and soft voice of the Lord calling you to ministry amongst us.

My eyes are drawn to the Second Reading of today's Mass from St Paul's letter to Timothy where St Paul says the following “You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the prophet spoke and the body of elders lay their hands on you: do not neglect it.” (1 Tim 4:14) We



pray in this Mass, that this spiritual gift of a vocation to the Diaconate be gifted to you fulsomely in this Mass. Realise that we are with you. Our prayers and thoughts and every encouragement, support you and accompany you on this pilgrim journey while we go together towards the Easter mysteries, particularly in the Lenten season.

Apart from this crucial word “Grace” an allied word comes up especially when we think of the Diaconate.

It is the word “Service.” The Grace of God is always linked with Service. The Gospel of tonight from Matthew Chapter 20 gives us the Lord's teaching on Service. It comes immediately after the mother of Zebedee's sons' places and imprudent request



*Above from left: Wilber Tobe, Anselm Okeke and Emmanuel Okparanaku.*



*Deacon Jomer Calma being ordained by Archbishop Prowse*

before the Lord for some sort of favouritism to be given to her two disciple sons.

The only thing that the Lord can offer her sons is a prophecy of the Suffering Servant of Christ on Calvary. That is the essence of Christian leadership. It is always a Service of leadership aligned with Christ Crucified. Nothing else is worthy of the term “Service”, in our Christian eyes.

So the Lord says the following about Service and Suffering leadership. When he says “anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

This is the quintessential

definition of Christian Service linked with the Crucified Christ.

Our dear brother Joma, may you live this type of service out not just intellectually but in fact all the days of your life.

In the ministry of the Deacon, however, this Servant leadership is expressed in three particular ways.

First, it is a Service of the Word. In the second reading from today St Paul cautions us to “be conscious about what you do and what you teach: persevere in this, and in this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.”

St Paul's instinct of course is the instinct of Christianity – the service or preaching and teaching must always be linked with our life style. There is

nothing more hypercritical than to preach one thing and to in your daily life practice something else. The Sex Abuse crisis in the Catholic Church at the moment, in a most regrettable way, is replete with almost diabolical examples of people failing to practice what they preach. We think particularly of the victims of sexual abuse and the healing in these days where the Australian Bishops have asked us to have days of fasting and reparation for all those victims effected by the abuse by Church personnel.

So, dear Joma, always preach the Word of God with great conviction. Certainly in your Homilies it is good to defer to the scripture commentators. But perhaps it's best not to do that first up. The first way of preaching, in a way that converts people to God is that you have yourself digested the living Word of God and you are sharing the way this has become food for you so that it might become food for those

*continued on page 5...*



*Deacon Paul Lu*



continued from page 4...

who listen to you preach. So make sure that when you preach you have digested the Word of God in a way that is comprehensible to the people you preach to. You're already seen as a humble and simple man. That is your great strength. May that simplicity and humility in your preaching bring many to an encounter with Jesus in the years ahead, please God.

Secondly, it is the Service of the Altar. In the first reading today from the book of Numbers we hear of Moses applying the requirements of God to their communal prayers. He is told that those leading in prayer must "undertake the duties encumbered on them and the whole community before the tent of meeting, in serving the dwelling, they will be in charge of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting and undertake the duties incumbent on the Israelites in serving the dwelling."

The Deacon is very much to serve the Sacred mysteries – the dwelling place of God. He assists the Priest's at the Altar, but also is able to officiate at many of our Sacraments, particularly Baptism and Matrimony. He is also able to lead prayers for those who have died.

Dear Joma, do not become what they call a "Sacristy Priest." Whereas it is important to serve at the Altar of God, this is the point of "arrival" and the point of "departure"

for all your pastoral work. Your attentiveness to the service of the Altar must be the fruit of all that has happened in the days before and after, and be a spring board for pastoral charity.

This brings us to the third Service, the Deacon is to be given to the service of Charity.

Pope Francis continually emphasises this aspect of our service. He always tells us to be most attentive pastorally to the people on the peripheries. We are to go out to the poor and the marginalised and those in deep need of Christ's merciful redemption and conversion. He tells us to develop a "culture of tenderness", imitating the tenderness of God the Father.

This is the Service of charity to the "widows and orphans" that biblically draws us to the very origin of the office of Deacon in the New Testament.

So dear Joma, always be a friend to those who are struggling and are the battlers. Your own migrant background as an Australian of Filipino origin is significant here. Never forget your humble origins and realise that so many are struggling, particularly those coming to Australian as migrants and refugees. Have a particular tenderness for them in your ministry in the years ahead.

We learn so much from the poor. God speaks to us at all times, but always shouts out to us in the voiceless ones on the periphery. Here in the Wagga Diocese give particular attention to the homeless and

those who are marginalised for any particular reason. May they become your special friends.

So we now continue on with the ordination to the Diaconate. We thank the Lord that the Filipino community in Australia continues to encourage vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. May that continue in the future. We thank the migrant communities, especially Filipino, for their great love of the Church and the way in which when they come to this country, they bring the greatest gift that they possibly can to enrich us all – their living friendship with Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

**May Mary the mother of all Deacons and Priests, and all the Saints especially the Filipino Saints protect you and guide you all the days of your life to Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.**



Deacon Jomer Calma with his family and Archbishop Prowse

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# Grandparents doing it tough

by Lyn Reilly

Facilitator

'Grandparents Doing It Tough'  
Support Group



The fight for social justice for society's most vulnerable

**Politics has never been my forte, but championing against injustice has. From a very young age I found myself befriending kids who were marginalised, and later working with young people and adults who were vulnerable or disadvantaged.**

And now, at the latter end of my working life I am in the political fight of my life... the fight for social justice for society's most vulnerable and disadvantaged, namely children and older people.

It is a fight for the vulnerability of kids who cannot live with their parents, and the financial vulnerability of Grandparents who are raising them. It is a fight against poverty and indifference, and the desperate need for recognition of the role Grandparents play. It is a fight to provide grandchildren with a little more than just the basics of life, without Grandparents having to struggle on a daily basis.

and Deniliquin, with an ever-increasing number of enquiries received each week from distressed Grandparents.

The focus of the group initially was to offer social support, friendship, resources, information, and shared experiences. While this has not changed, the group now, by necessity, has developed a strong political advocacy focus in fighting for social justice for Grandparents, and children unable to live with their biological parents. Life is a constant struggle for these older Grandparents so often living on, or below the poverty line.

It is acknowledged that Governments take advantage of the goodwill of Grandparents who love their grandchildren because they are family, and want to protect them from harm. Grandparents account for the largest providers of out-of-home care and outnumber foster carers, yet unlike formal foster carers, the majority



Front row: Judy Hinchcliffe, Colleen Beale, Sandra Suitor, Val Dent, Elisabeth Den-Heyer  
2nd row: Lyn Reilly, Colin Stone, Heather Higman, Neville Suitor, Peter Quarmby, Tracey Pahl  
3rd row: Tammy Caulfield, Jo Stone, Nicki, Les Riddle (partly obscured), Annette O'Donnell  
Back row: Lynne McDonnell, Gavin Lynch, Paul Jensen, Von Heald, Marie Thommers

may be eligible for some Centrelink rebates, this can be offset by the need to relocate to a larger house, purchase a larger car, or to be closer to school and medical services.

Retirement goes out the window, superannuation contributions cease as Grandparents relinquish employment in order to meet the needs of their grandchildren, many of who have experienced trauma, abuse and neglect, and have emotional, behaviour, developmental or learning difficulties.

**Grandparents save the Government millions of dollars in providing care for children who might otherwise end up in the foster care system. At a time when Family and Community Services policy is concerned with**

**reunification of children and families, they are not funding Grandparents who are looking after these children in the meantime.**

I am not alone in this David and Goliath fight for social justice with those that hold the political powers. But we cannot do this by ourselves. We need to identify with strong advocacy groups to support change for vulnerable and disadvantaged families, and assertive voices to carry our concerns.

We have had strong support from the Catholic Social Services Australian (CSSA) NSW/ACT by way of contributing to their submission to the FaCS discussion paper "Shaping a Better Child Protection System", and in allowing Grandparent voices to be heard.

GDIT members have held regular meeting with our local MP, the previous Minister for Family and Community Services (FaCS), Hon Brad Hazzard, and more recently the current Minister Hon. Pru Goward. Concerns were raised at the lack of resources and financial support for Grandparents, particularly in light of the removal of the Supported Care Allowance by FaCS in 2016 which had been previously available to assist Grandparents leaving them with no alternative access to funding. Concerns were certainly raised in relation to the disregard of political recommendations for recognising the practical need of Grandparents.

Over the past 15 years there have been 3 separate Senate Enquiries (2003, 2014, 2015) in relation to Grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren and out-of-home care. Significant recommendations were made "to develop and implement nationally consistent financial and practical support for statutory and informal relative/kinship carers." Yet, largely these recommendations have been ignored and as a result there has been little change in the status quo.

**At a time of life when Grandparents should be enjoying life, to have to fight for the right to be able to adequately resource their grandchildren's basic needs is beyond shameful!**

**At a time of life when Grandparents should be enjoying life, to have to fight for the right to be able to adequately resource their grandchildren's basic needs is beyond shameful!**

In mid-2013, 3 Grandparents came together to create a support group for Grandparents raising grandchildren, and Grandparents seeking access to their grandchildren. Currently the group, supported by Centacare SW NSW, has over 50 families under the 'Grandparents Doing It Tough' (GDIT) umbrella in four locations, Wagga, Henty, Finley

of informal Grandparents families raising grandchildren do not received a supported care allowance to assist in raising these children.

GDIT Grandparents aged between 50 – 83 years are raising between 1-7 grandchildren, the majority on pensions and many on single pensions and even self-funded retiree pensions. While they



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- Natural Fertility Awareness
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# International Women's Day shines the spotlight on rural women



**Catholics across Australia are being invited to join with people around the world in considering the particular challenges women face when they live outside metropolitan areas.**

International Women's Day, which is celebrated each year on March 8, this year has the challenging theme "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives".

Drawing on the theme of the upcoming 62nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of

Women, the day will help give voice and support to the work, the rights and the activism of women living in rural areas across the globe. They make up more than one quarter of the world's population.

International Women's Day this year comes on the heels of an international movement for women's rights, equality and justice. The harassment of women and violence and discrimination against women has received significant media attention and prompted rising determination for change.

"Women in rural areas are keeping their family hopes high in the face of adversity," said Bishop Michael McCarthy, Bishop Delegate to the Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW).

"The theme of this year's International Women's Day invites all Australians to salute women and acknowledge the rich support that they provide to family, community and Church. Our Catholic tradition honours the many ways that women minister and provide pastoral care."

The CACW is urging Catholics to educate themselves about the specific disadvantages that affect rural women and to act for justice ahead of International Women's Day.

CACW chair Lorraine Barker said women who live in rural areas are experiencing a number of disadvantages, faring worse than men in rural areas and women who live in urban areas.

"The inequality that exists across a whole range of areas is unacceptable and while it shouldn't take International Women's Day to put the spotlight on this issue, March 8 must be a day for us all to consider how we help correct this injustice," she said.

John Ferguson from the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council said: "In Australia, the impact of disadvantage can be exacerbated for women in rural and remote locations, where employment opportunities are scarce, welfare and health services are limited, and where family and social support networks can be stretched due to the tyranny of distance, population decline because younger generations are moving to metropolitan areas and the loss of social infrastructure."

Churches and other faith-based groups around the world will be using International Women's

Day to underline their shared commitment to empowering women.

The CACW provides advice to the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry about the inclusion of women and their participation in the Catholic Church in Australia.

**Its mission is to increase the number of women in decision-making, leadership and ministry roles in the Church. The Council coordinates mentoring and leadership development programs, especially for young women.**



# Catholic Schools Week

*Parent Engagement: an evening with Professor Debbie Pushor*

## WE ARE GREATER TOGETHER



**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK**  
4-10 MARCH 2018

Proudly supported by



**From Sunday, March 4 – Saturday, March 10, Catholic schools across our region will open their doors to families, friends and community members to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2018.**

The theme for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga is 'Catholic schools: We are Greater Together' which focuses on forging and strengthening relationships between Catholic schools and their local communities which enable them to continue to thrive. Above all, Catholic Schools Week is about celebrating everything that makes our schools great and highlighting the significant contribution that our students, staff and families make to the state and nation.

To acknowledge the important role that parents and carers play in the success of their children's education, we are launching Catholic Schools Week with a free evening masterclass on Monday 5 March at the Mercure Wagga Wagga with Parent Engagement expert, Dr Debbie Pushor. Debbie is a Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the

University of Saskatchewan in Canada and is a passionate advocate for authentic parent partnerships. Debbie's research program has engaged in narrative inquiries into parent knowledge, parent engagement and leadership and she has recently co-authored two books on parent engagement. Tickets for this fantastic opportunity are limited, to find more details and book, please visit [trybooking.com/book/event?eid=353053](http://trybooking.com/book/event?eid=353053). We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Catholic Super for their support with this year's events.

Schools across the diocese will be holding all sorts of events to raise public awareness of the many opportunities that Catholic schools provide, so keep an eye on social media and contact your local Catholic School to see what they have planned for this exciting week of celebration.

### Who is the Master Class for?

- Teachers, School Leaders, Diocesan Staff
- Parent Leaders
- Education office personnel
- People who work with parents

and communities across NSW and ACT schools

- Representatives from all school sectors welcome too.

**Monday**

**5th March 2018**

**6:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Mercure Hotel**

**1-5 Morgan St**

**Wagga Wagga**

**Free event - please register through:**  
[trybooking.com/353053](http://trybooking.com/353053)



*Presenter Dr Debbie Pushor*



# Fund raiser for museum to honour *Monsignor Patrick Hartigan*

Parish Priest Fr. Bradley Rafter has moved back from the old St. Joseph's Convent building to St. Mel's Presbytery which was completed in 1916 by Narrandera's third parish priest Fr. Tom Gray who came to Narrandera in 1895 and died there on 1st January 1917. The gracious

old heritage building is now being refurbished by the Parish to include a museum to honour Monsignor Patrick Hartigan (bush balladist John O'Brien of poetry collections "Around the Boree Log" and "Parish of St. Mel's".) In 1917 Fr. Hartigan began his 27 year stint

as parish priest of Narrandera.

**On Friday 16th March the parish annual Festival Bingo night will be a fund raiser for the museum. The venue is the John O'Brien Hall at St. Joseph's School and is promoted as family entertainment as well**

**as a night for those who like to test their luck and hone their scanning skills.** Doors open at 6pm for ticket sales with the first game underway at 7pm. There is a \$200 guaranteed jackpot plus a \$50 'whinger's special' with cash prizes for all houses plus bonus giveaways

and refreshments and a light supper are on offer through the night. A book of 30 tickets for the 30 games of the night is \$5.00 and players may purchase as many books as they feel they can handle. **The night will wrap up at about 10:00pm.**



First Photoplay Edition, illustrated with scenes from the Australian 1925 black and white and silent (and presumed lost) film directed by Phil Walsh.

## John O'Brien (from 'John O'Brien and the Boree Log' by Fr. Frank Mecham)

**Fr. Patrick Hartigan or, as he was known by several generations of Australian poetry-lovers, "John O'Brien" was born at Yass in 1878, the fourth of nine children.**

In 1898 he went to St. Patrick's College, Manly, where he was a surreptitious reader of *The Bulletin*, which was very far from being approved seminary fare. Writing under the pen name "Mary Ann" he submitted to *The Bulletin* a poem about an old racehorse, and, despite the magazine's rejection of this sample of the budding poet's work, he continued to use "Mary Ann" in his many contributions to it in later years.

In 1903 he was ordained and spent the next seven years in Albury. It was here that he established himself as an ecumenist, many years before such an enlightened approach became acceptable. In 1910 he was made Inspector of Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Goulburn. He came to Narrandera in 1917 and over 27 years identified himself very much with the Riverina township on the Murrumbidgee River, and became the friend of men and women of all creeds and none (in particular he had a rapport with the Arch Deacon of St. Thomas' Parish of the Church

of England).

Fr. Hartigan loved cars and in 1911 he invested in a second hand, eight horsepower Renault. With this car he did an epic sick call to Bringepong on the Upper Murray River, and the sick man, named Riley, turned out to be none other than "The Man from Snowy River" immortalised by Banjo Paterson.

In 1921 *AROUND THE BOREE LOG* was published and the poetry collection was an instant success, the first edition of 5,000 copies selling out in record time. He used the pen-name "John O'Brien", the name of a milkman who was said to add water to his milk making it a poor product – Father Hartigan had no pretensions that his jingles were any better. The reviews were flattering and C.J. Dennis of 'Sentimental Bloke' fame wrote in the *Bulletin* 'they are Australian first – bush Australian, about good mates, good workers, full of healthy humour and a capacity for enjoyment that most of the world now seems to have lost... the verse that makes us acquainted with these jovial fellows is the direct Lawson-Paterson line.' Dennis' remark that 'Said Hanrahan' and 'The Careys' were true to life could have been extended to another rollicking farce,

John O'Brien Hall, St Joseph's Primary School  
**Friday 16 March 2018**  
7:00 pm Start – Doors open 6:00 pm

# BINGO

**Fund raiser for the John O'Brien Museum**  
**\$200 Guaranteed Jackpot**  
**\$50 Whinger's Special**  
**Cash prize each house**  
Children very welcome.  
Refreshments and light supper available from 6:00 pm

*"The years have turned the rusted key and time is on the jog.  
Yet spend another night with us around the boree log"*  
by John O'Brien

"Tangmalangaloo", an incident which really happened to Bishop Gallagher of the time, when he went to Tangamangaroo near Boorowa to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The answer to the Bishop's question to the 'overgrown two-storey lad' has 'rocked' many an audience since "John O'Brien" recorded it in his inimitable verse:

*And oh, how pleased His Lordship was, and how he smiled to say,*

*'That's good, my boy. Come, tell me now; and what is Christmas Day?'*

*The ready answer bared a fact no bishop ever knew –*

*'It's the day before the races out at*

*Tangmalangaloo.*

The first edition was described in advertisements as 'handsomely bound in gilt cloth' and it cost 6 shillings. It continued to be in demand and was repeatedly reprinted, the number of copies sold has exceeded a quarter of a million.

On the eve of a trip to Europe for the Holy Year of 1925, at a farewell function in Narrandera, Fr Hartigan said:

*He was proud to hear the speakers say he was liberal-minded, for he hoped that he would never say anything that would wound the susceptibilities of anyone. He was born in the religion which he*

*led in his small way, but he was prepared to think that other people were as sincere with regard to their denominations as he was with regard to his. He regarded every man as an Australian who worked for the good of this country, no matter where he was born. He hoped the hand of friendship would always be extended to men from overseas who came here to work for this glorious country. There was no room for bigotry here.*

**Father Hartigan remained in Narrandera until 1944 when his advancing years, and the desire to devote himself to historical writing, caused his semi-retirement. He died in 1952.**





# Wagga Serra Club:

## Sharing talents and fostering vocations

When 5-year-old Johnny was asked “What do you think you are doing?!” he replied, “The policeman is helping me with my maths.” Mum then asked, “What did I tell you about going on the phone?” Johnny answered, “You said if I needed help I should call somebody.” Surprised, Mum said, “I didn’t mean the police!”

Among other things happening in this actual conversation, Johnny tried to

do what his Mum asked. Jesus once said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers to his harvest.’” Matthew, 9:37 NJB. Members of the Wagga Serra Club, called Serrans, try to answer Jesus’ call through a charism of fostering vocations, assisting religious and clergy, and growing in faith.

Membership is open to all practising Catholic laymen,

laywomen and to Permanent Deacons. Throughout the year members pray for vocations as individuals and once a month come together as a community for Mass. Some also pray for vocations by visiting the Blessed Sacrament for an hour during all-night Adoration once a Term.

Socially, they meet and share a supper once a month, assist with receptions after ordinations and host a BBQ for students, staff and friends

of the seminary after the academic end-of-year Mass.

In 2017, the Wagga Serra Club activities included hosting BBQ lunches for the inter seminary soccer tournament and a vocations day at a local school, as well as, a dinner to raise funds for carrying out their work. Consequently, Wagga Serrans met seminarians from around Australia as well as members of the local community.

President of the Wagga

Serra Club, Steven Vella said, “Being a Serran isn’t for everyone, but all are welcome to learn more about what we do. Having a balance between social activities and prayer is one way we help share our talents and answer the call of Jesus to foster vocations.”

**To find out more call  
Letitia  
(VP Membership)  
on 0439 868 461.**

### TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

*Outreaching to all those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and would like the Church to look into the validity of their marriage.*

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**Phone: 6937 0017**  
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### Healing the Wounds of Abuse

*Is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse.*

**The retreat will be held  
April 8th – 13th, 2018**

To request an application please contact  
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National Director Grief to Grace Australia by  
emailing [info@griegtogracesaus.org.au](mailto:info@griegtogracesaus.org.au)  
or phone 0407 704 539  
For more information visit  
[www.griegtogracesaus.org](http://www.griegtogracesaus.org)



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# PROJECT COMPASSION

## FOR A JUST FUTURE

# A just future starts with the empowerment of youth

**Young people are a vital part of the solution to the challenges in their communities and during Caritas Australia's Project Compassion hundreds of thousands of students, and all generations in Australia, will take action for our global neighbours.**

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 Caritas Australia, the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church, will launch its annual Project Compassion appeal – one of Australia's largest humanitarian fundraising and awareness-raising campaigns.

Each year Caritas Australia's Project Compassion, which runs through the six weeks of Lent, brings together communities across Australia, in solidarity with the world's poor, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

This year the focus is on youth and their communities globally and providing them with a Just Future.

According to the UN, some 250 million children worldwide, live in conflict zones. Caritas Australia, through its work, believes that young people's contribution is integral to building sustainable peace.

Mr Armstrong said youth are often the game changers in fragile contexts globally, as highlighted in stories featured during Project Compassion, like Bayan's, from Syria. Bayan grew up in Syria's capital, Damascus and struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone, facing the prospect of missing out on schooling. Now Bayan is an academic high-achiever, flourishing in a stable school environment, thanks to support from Caritas Australia and our partners, Caritas Jordan and Catholic Relief Services.

**"Youth are the future and offer us hope for a better tomorrow. Engaging them and investing in the millions of young people who live in fragile contexts has never**

**been more important," said Caritas Australia's Head of Engagement and Sustainability, David Armstrong.**

"I encourage you to support Project Compassion because your donations make a big difference to our capacity to help impoverished communities become stronger and more resilient."

Money raised during Project Compassion goes towards Caritas Australia's humanitarian and long-term development programs in 27 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific and with Australia's First Peoples. Last year Project Compassion raised \$11 million.

Last year Caritas Australia, thanks to all our supporters, reached over 2 million people directly through our emergency and development programs.

**During Lent, Australians are invited to support Project Compassion by making a donation, or by hosting fundraising events in their local school, parish, community or neighbourhood. Supporters can also to share their stories on social media at #ProjectCompassion. To donate to Project Compassion or for fundraising ideas visit [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phone 1800 024 413**



*Bayan (right) a Syrian refugee, pictured with her family and friends, struggled to overcome the trauma of growing up in a conflict zone. Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia*

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# St. Anthony of Padua, the wonder worker

by Fr. Peter Stojanovic  
Administrator  
Parish of St Francis, Yoogali



**Pompeii in Italy is known for its unholy remains and relics from the volcanic disaster of 79AD and the eruption of Mount Vesuvius which devastated the city. Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii church has recently acquired a new holy relic in a reliquary in its shrine of the saints. Housed in this holy box is a second class relic of St. Anthony of Padua, the Wonder worker. It is actually a small fragment of the famous holy friar's brown tunic, some 800 years old. This is super special and rarer than 'a hen's tooth'.**

Many people from the St. Francis parish, which is some 50% Italian, have been to Italy to see the relics of St. Anthony in the Basilica of Padua, which some 3 million people visit each year. So now there is an amazing relic on display for veneration in humble church in Yoogali. Relics brings us into close contact with the living memory of the saints, as older brothers and sisters in God's family who have gone before us but can willingly help us when we invoke their aid. There are thousands of recorded miracles wrought by means of relics and praying to saints.

A number of years ago I vividly remember the day I received a phone call about someone who had been in a motorcycle accident and had been thrown off the motorcycle through the back window of the vehicle in front, and then was transferred to hospital. The family was requesting a blessing and prayers for him and his health.

Actually the accident had happened the day before and the man had had x-rays and cat-scans. Given the nature and seriousness of the accident it was suspected that there might be serious fractures to the neck and back. Anyway, when I reached the hospital on the day after the accident I brought a holy relic and met the family in the room where the accident victim was. He was lying flat on a board bed with no mattress with a big neck brace. His face was off-colour and he wasn't moving much.

I tried to console the family and expressed my intention to pray and bless him (the dad/husband) with a holy relic. After handing out a few holy cards of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, with a prayer on the back, we all prayed together and then I blessed the patient with a first class relic of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, who had been known for working wonders.

Within two minutes of the prayer and blessing two nurses suddenly walked into the room and I remember the words of the first nurse 'verbatim', addressed to the patient: "We have come to teach you how to dance!"

The nurses then proceeded to take the neck brace off and prop up his head with a pillows. Then they were going to give him lunch.

The results had come back that he 'miraculously' had no fractures.

Was this a coincidence or a God-incidence?

Relics have no power in themselves but they are non-the-less according to church teaching a means of channeling grace.

Relics are often misunderstood and sadly even rejected by some, but indeed they have long been regarded worldwide as a treasure of the church. Children and adults are amazed by and drawn to them as they bring us in physical contact with something 'holy'.

**Relics can be the bodily remains, clothing, or personal possessions of saints and other holy people.**

Venerating relics has been a timeless devotional custom in the church, indeed for millenia, even back to the time of the first martyrs in the Roman Empire. Some may see this as strange or superstitious, but superstition is believing something has power that actually does not. In fact there is a real power to holy relics, as sacramentals. Just as we use holy images, water, and oil etc, to be blessed and touched by God's grace, similarly touching relics with faith can also work wonders.

Relics make sense when when realise that God created the material world and "saw that it was good" (Genesis 1). Material things can be even sacred if used for the glory of God. Jesus many times used physical things to convey healing grace to people during his ministry on earth. He anointed the eyes of the man born blind with spit and dirt (John 9), and sick people were restored to health simply touching his clothes (Mt 9:20-22, 14:35-36).

God also is glorified by His saints and in order to inspire us by their example, their intercession is powerful. "God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were carried away from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them" (Acts 19:11-12).

people with lifelong devotion, as instrumental means to inspire faith and even work modern miracles for help and healing.

The church in Yoogali is always open and welcoming to pilgrims who wish to visit our saints shrine and perhaps light a candle in intercessory prayer. And now people may venerate the relic of

**Relics are often misunderstood and sadly even rejected by some, but indeed they have long been regarded worldwide as a treasure of the church. Children and adults are amazed by and drawn to them as they bring us in physical contact with something 'holy'.**

"...they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them." (Acts 5:15).

Since God has chosen to work supernatural signs through natural things as ordinary as handkerchiefs, when faith is applied, why should we surprised if God uses the relics of holy

St. Anthony of Padua in the hope of heavenly help. St. Anthony has long been regarded as a powerful intercessor. Come and see a relic of the world famous saint in Yoogali. It may feel like meeting him on earth. Holy relics, in golden reliquaries can give good goosbumps. May God spark your faith in saints relics, and stir your hope for healing graces.



A picture of the 800 year old, St Anthony of Padua relic in the church at Yoogali.

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 Part 1 (3-6 year olds) Training



*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) is a faith formation process that honours the spiritual values of childhood and the child's covenant relationship with God. Founded by Dr. Sofia Cavalletti and Professor Gianna Gobbi in Rome, this method draws on the discoveries of childhood development made by Dr. Maria Montessori and implements Montessori principles of education, such as the use of concrete materials, spontaneous choice of work and freedom of movement.*

**Date:** Monday 16th to Saturday 21st April 2018 (6 days)

**Trainer:** Angela Hague from Chatswood Sydney

**Location:** St Michael's Parish Centre WAGGA WAGGA

**Cost:** \$320

### Course Description and Aims:

The Level One Formation Course is the foundation course for all three levels of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. It aims to:

- Explore with participants the general developmental characteristics, religious nature and religious needs of the 3 to 6 year old child.
- Meditate on the Biblical and Liturgical themes of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.
- Offer guidelines and assistance to catechists in setting up an atrium for the 3 to 6 year old child, preparing presentation album pages and making materials.
- Experience being formed as catechists by the Word of God and deepening our ability to observe and learn from the children, the joy of the Gospel!

*Participation in the course is not a commitment to working in an atrium. Course content is also helpful for those working in other catechesis settings or for parents interested in understanding what the CGS is and what their children will experience in the atrium.*

For more information or to express interest please contact Emily Shaw 0400 524 190 emily-shaw@live.com.au or Fr. Darlow 0269 276 438



# Soprano Bradman a high note of Galong centenary



**One of Australasia's most illustrious operatic and concert artists, soprano Greta Bradman, will stretch her vocal chords on March 10 to help celebrate 100 years of Redemptorist service to the community at Galong.**

When the first students arrived at the newly minted St Clement's Monastery in January 1918, 'Galong Castle', the famously hospitable home of the Ryan family, had been transformed into a spartan juvenile.

Until the boys carried their own beds upstairs, not a single stick of furniture adorned the dormitory. They carried hot water in kerosene tins for their weekly bath.

Over the years around 900 boys received an education that was, for many, otherwise out of reach. Living conditions gradually improved.

On graduating, a smattering of the boys entered the order, but most returned to families, jobs and secular life.

One of the boys in the hardy first intake was John Kennedy, who became

a chaplain in World War II. The small field mass kit he carried while working on the Thai-Burma Railway is now displayed in the museum of the extensively renovated Galong House.

In 1975 the juvenile closed. Renovations began and St Clement's Retreat and Conference Centre was born. Far removed from its spartan beginnings, its reputation for hospitality has come full circle: those who seek spiritual nourishment in the serenity of the gardens, grotto and rural surrounds are assured of palate-tempting nourishment as well.

One hundred years after the first boys sought education at St Clement's, people still come to the Redemptorist Monastery seeking sustenance for mind, body and soul.

You can be part of the festivities to mark this centenary of community service. Tickets for Greta Bradman are \$60pp, including pre-concert chicken and champagne from 6pm. Performance begins at 7.45pm. **Tickets are selling fast. Phone St Clement's (02) 6380 5222. Accommodation available.**

## Theologian helped kick-start 100th anniversary year

*"The earth, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she groans in travail." (Rom 8:22 Laudato Si' para 2)*

**Redemptorist Priest, Fr Anthony Kelly, helped kick-start the anniversary celebrations of the Redemptorist Order's 100 year presence at the former Monastery in Galong.**

The world-renowned theologian was one of two key speakers at the 'Cry of the Earth' conference held at St Clement's Retreat Centre between February 16 and 18.

Former Catholic Earthcare director, Jacqui Remond, also presented at the conference.

Together the pair explored some key elements to Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' and how it is touching the lives of Australians today.

Retreat Coordinator, Fr Patrick Corbett, says St

Clement's was thrilled to have hosted 'Cry of the Earth'. "2018 marks an historic moment," he said.

"For 100 years the Redemptorist Congregation has played a very active role in the life of the Diocese of Goulburn and more recently in the Archdiocese.

"It is with a great deal of satisfaction that we can put events like this on."

**Next month, in March, the retreat centre will host operatic and concert soprano Greta Bradman, who will sing on the evening of March 10, 2018. To RSVP your attendance please call (02) 6380 5222. Accommodation and meal options are available.**



**FR ANTHONY KELLY has undertaken doctoral and post-doctoral studies in Rome, Toronto and Paris. He is a former president of Australian Catholic Theological Association and past Chair of the Forum of Australian Catholic Institutes of Theology. He was Head**

of Sub-Faculty of Philosophy and Theology at the Australian Catholic University from 1999 to 2004. In February 2004, he was appointed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the International Theological Commission. Fr Kelly is the author of two studies on Laudato Si'.



## The key speakers:

**JACQUI REMOND, is a former Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia and co-founder of the Global Catholic Climate Movement. She specializes in ecological conversion and has been the spokeswoman**

for the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference on ecology for the past ten years. She is continuing to catalyse the global church's response to Laudato Si' and was invited to Rome to meet with Pope Francis in May 2015.



# Wagga Eucharistic Adoration devotion for all

*Will you not spend one hour with Me?*

**Eucharistic Adoration has been defined in different ways. One of which was, as adoring, or honouring, the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. Allowing one to contemplate the Mystery of Christ truly present before them.**

In Eucharistic Adoration God and man reach out for each other at the same time! On one side, the adorer remains silent, watches and waits, opening themselves to His Graces. On the other side, the Lord draws them to Himself to gently transform them.

*"The Catholic Church has always offered and still offers to*

*the sacrament of the Eucharist ... adoration, not only during Mass, but also outside of it, reserving the consecrated hosts with the utmost care, exposing them to the solemn veneration of the faithful..."* Paul VI

Initially, an hour of Adoration might not be easy for some. However, regular attendees consider the hour passes quickly, whether they pray formally or passively, read or petition, give thanks or praise. Many attendees find they look forward to their hour of peace in the Lord's Presence to revitalise their lives.

In July 1995 a group of

parishioners from each of the four parishes in Wagga Wagga took steps to establish a roster of people to attend Eucharistic Adoration at the Calvary Hospital Chapel. The weekly roster has operated continually since September of that year. Similar rosters also operate at Griffith and Albury.

The roster runs from 8 am until 9 pm from Monday to Friday at the Bishop's Chapel at the Bishop's House behind St Michael's Cathedral. On Friday night it continues from 9 pm till 7 am on Saturday at Holy Trinity Church, Ashmont. Access on Friday night is limited to Adorers

who require an entry code for the door to enter.

Rostered Adorers attend for one hour starting on the hour. In Wagga, two people attend, so that if one is unable to come each week, the other can still attend the hour in the first instance. If both will be absent, they can contact their coordinator to ensure a substitute attends. A substitute is one who cannot commit to a regular hour each week but, if their schedule allows, can do so when called upon.

Currently vacancies exist where only one person is attending some hours. So, when a new adorer

volunteers to join the roster they initially consider an hour where a vacancy exists. However, if vacant hours do not suit, the person can still attend another hour that is suitable.

**The Eucharistic Adoration roster in Wagga is coordinated by the Wagga Serra Club. For more information or to arrange an hour on the roster please contact John Evans: 69226287 or 0410 026 796.**

## All-night Eucharistic Adoration for vocations

**Once each term a special all-night vigil is held in the chapel of Vianney College.**

The date is advertised but it usually corresponds with one of the first Fridays of the month.

The vigil starts with Mass at 7.00 pm on the Friday and finishes with Benediction and Mass on Saturday morning at 7.45 am.

Seminarians and Serrans are rostered to watch in adoration

during the night but anyone can come and join them for one or more hours.

The purpose of this vigil is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life.

**For more information contact Serra VP Vocations, Wendy Cattell, on 0400 444 643 or come along and participate when it suits.**



## Two 80th birthdays celebrated in Griffith

**Two long time members of the Griffith Sacred Heart Ladies Conference recently celebrated their 80th Birthday with an Afternoon Tea supplied by fellow members.**

Pat Corner and Joan Forlico have been members of the Ladies Conference in Griffith for over 20 years, having served much of that time on the Executive Committee.



*Above: Pat Corner (left) and Joan Forlico (right) celebrate their 80th birthdays.*



**The Sacred Heart Ladies Conference welcomes new members to assist those in need in the Griffith community. Enquiries can be made by phoning their office on (02) 6964 3863**

  
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# STATEMENT OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS ON RELEASE OF FINAL REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

**The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has today released its final report, which includes a large number of recommendations, many of which will have a significant impact on the way the Catholic Church operates in Australia.**

President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Denis Hart, said the

release of the final report is the culmination of almost five years of intense examination of the way in which many different institutions, including the Catholic Church, have historically failed children.

"This is a shameful past, in which a prevailing culture of secrecy and self-protection led to unnecessary suffering for many victims and their families," Archbishop Hart said. "Once again I reiterate my

unconditional apology for this suffering and a commitment to ensuring justice for those affected."

Sister Ruth Durick OSU, president of Catholic Religious Australia, said religious orders across Australia are committed to continuing the work of recent years to ensure a future in which the safety and protection of children and vulnerable adults is paramount.

"We acknowledge with gratitude the courage of all those survivors who have come forward to the Royal Commission," Sr Ruth said.

"We will be taking very seriously the Royal Commission's report and have commissioned an initial assessment of its findings by the Truth, Justice and Healing Council. We expect the TJHC assessment to be completed early in 2018."

Both leaders said the Church

will continue to push for the introduction of a national redress scheme for the survivors of child sexual abuse in which the Church will participate.

"The success of this scheme lies with the cooperation of the state governments. Without their involvement, national coverage will be impossible," they said.

"It is now time for state governments to act."



## STATEMENT OF DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA ON RELEASE OF FINAL REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION

**The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has today released its final report, which includes a large number of recommendations, many of which will have a significant impact on the way the Catholic Church operates in Australia.**

This report marks the end of the Royal Commission and the start of yet more work to make Church institutions as safe as possible for children and to deliver

justice for survivors. We thank the Commissioners and their staff for the years of hard and harrowing work undertaken during this process.

Over recent years, the Diocese of Wagga Wagga has increased staffing and resources for child protection activities and has in place a dedicated Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office to conduct training and respond to complaints against people within our organisation.

We continue to have a strong focus on protections for children and vulnerable adults and we fully support the views contained in today's statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

As a Church, we need to go through the report and come back to our community with a comprehensive, considered response - this is what we will do.

## Recommendations may have significant impact on the Church



**A number of recommendations by the Royal Commission could have a significant impact on the way the Catholic Church in Australia operates into the future.**

Various amendments to the 1983 Code of Canon Law are proposed in the report as is greater transparency and stricter reporting and governance by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

President of Catholic Religious Australia, Sister Ruth Durick OSU, said religious orders across Australia are committed to continuing the work of recent years to ensure a future in which

the safety and protection of children and vulnerable adults is paramount.

"We acknowledge with gratitude the courage of all those survivors who have come forward to the Royal Commission," she said.

"We will be taking very seriously the Commission's report and have commissioned an initial assessment of its findings by the Truth, Justice and Healing Council.

"We expect the TJHC assessment to be completed early in 2018."

In a joint statement, Sr Durick and Archbishop Denis Hart, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, said

the Church will continue to push for the introduction of a national redress scheme for the survivors of child sexual abuse which the Church will participate in.

"The success of this scheme lies with the cooperation of the state governments," they said.

Without their involvement, national coverage will be impossible."

To read all the Commission's final report recommendations for the Catholic Church visit pages 51-55 at [https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/final\\_report\\_-\\_recommendations.pdf](https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/sites/default/files/final_report_-_recommendations.pdf)

## Final report marks a line in the sand

**"This report marks the line in the sand," Archbishop Christopher Prowse declared following the release of the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.**

"As a Catholic leader, I accept this responsibility, and with the support of our faith-filled communities, I am determined to forge a more accountable and transparent future direction."

Joining with other key Church figures in welcoming the final report of the five years long Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse, he reiterated the Church's remorse for victims, their families and friends.

"The journey of the Commission has been a period of utter shame for the Catholic Church," he said.

"I congratulate the Commission on its rigor during this long investigative process, and honour the victims for their courage in exposing the unspeakable horrors they have endured," he said.

"We are truly sorry for all that has taken place."

Archbishop Prowse described the revelations in the report as "shocking and diabolical" and likened the Commission to an extended 'examination of conscience' for institutions, especially the Catholic Church.

He said the events of the past have engendered immense humiliation in our communities, and that the only forward is with a conversion of heart and by righting the wrongs through actions.

"This conversion of the heart is the beginning of a hope-filled path into the future," he said.

"Conversion of cultural patterns and structures must follow."

He said the Archdiocese will now commit itself to carefully examining the recommendations of the Commission, and building on what has already begun in the long future road to collective responsibility.

The Archbishop says he supports the introduction of a national redress scheme for the survivors of child sexual abuse in which the Church will participate along with the State governments.

"I have strongly advocated the ACT Government to strengthen and expand the reportable conduct scheme to include religious organisations," he said.

"May the Lord deliver us from evil as we follow more closely His ways of mercy and justice."

To read the Archbishop's statement in full visit <http://tjhcouncil.org.au/media/144938/171215-STATEMENT-Archdiocese-of-Canberra-Goulburn-RC-final-report-response.pdf>

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# Board of new Catholic Church professional standards body complete

**The seven-member board of the Catholic Church's new child and vulnerable person standards setting, auditing and reporting organisation is now fully in place and pushing forward with the development of a major new approach to the way in which the Church ensures everyone who comes in contact with any of its ministries is as safe as possible.**

The Chair of CPSL, The Hon Geoff Giudice, said following the appointments of Queensland education specialist Dr Kerrie Tuite and WA governance expert Dr Ruth Shean this month, the board is now made up of members with a wide range of skills and expertise.

"We now have people of the highest integrity, caliber and expertise on the board," Mr Giudice said.

"With experts in child protection, education, disability, social services, governance, law, regulation and cultural change, this board is set to make a very significant impact on the way the Church operates its professional standards and child protection services.

"And working alongside a group of dedicated staff led by Sheree Limbrick, we are all confident that the work and the mission of CPSL will achieve great things for the most vulnerable people who come in contact with the Church and for the Catholic and broader community."

CPSL has been established by the leadership of the Australian Catholic Church in the wake of Royal Commission revelations of institutional failure in the management and response to child sexual abuse claims in Catholic organisations including schools, parishes and homes.

CPSL will develop, audit and report on compliance with professional standards across Catholic entities. It represents a new national Church approach to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people.

CPSL is already undertaking consultation on the development of new standards having recently visited Adelaide and Darwin. It expects to be releasing the first draft of its new standards in the coming months. They will be based extensively on the Royal Commission's findings on the Key elements of a child-safe organisations.

## Board of Directors

**Chair - The Hon Geoff Giudice AO (appointed November 2016)**

**LLB, BA**

The Hon. Geoff Giudice AO was President of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission from 1997 until 2009 and the inaugural President of Fair Work Australia (now the Fair Work Commission) from 2009 until February 2012. Prior to 1997 he practised widely in the State and Federal jurisdictions specialising in industrial and

employment law.

Geoff has degrees in Law and Arts from the University of Melbourne and is an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne Law School (Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law) and a consultant in the employment law practice of Ashurst Australia.

Geoff is currently a consultant with Ashurst Australia and Chair of the Independent Review Panel, Gambling Regulation Act 2003 (Vic).

**Deputy Chair - Patricia Faulkner AO (appointed November 2016)**

**MBA, BA (Econ), Dip Ed**

Patricia Faulkner AO is a former Secretary of the Department of Human Services in Victoria. In this role, Patricia led portfolios including child protection, youth justice, public hospitals, public housing, disability accommodation and community health services.

In 2015-16, Patricia was Deputy Commissioner of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence. For 25 years Patricia has led large complex organisations and held a variety of chairman and director roles with government entities and not for profit boards across a range of sectors.

Patricia is currently Chair of the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman Ltd, Chair of Jesuit Social Services, Chair of the

Melbourne Racing Club Foundation and Deputy Chair of St Vincent's Health Australia Ltd.

**Professor The Hon Michael Lavarch AO (August 2017) LLB**

Professor Lavarch AO has had extensive involvement in Australian public life, serving in Local Government before being elected to Federal Parliament in 1987, serving as Attorney General in the Keating Government from 1993-1996.

Since leaving Parliament in 1996, Michael has been the Secretary General of the Law Council of Australia, Dean of Law at QUT and, since 2012, Deputy Chief Commissioner and Commissioner, Risk, Intelligence & Regulatory Support at the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

Michael has worked with organisations supporting child welfare programs including the Forde Foundation which was established by the Queensland Government in response to the findings into the abuse of children in Queensland Institutions.

Michael is currently Chair of the Financial Ombudsman Service Ltd and Chief Adjudicator with the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code Adjudication Panel.

**Dr Robyn Miller PhD (August 2017) PhD, MFT, GradDipFT, BSocSc (Social Work)**

Dr Robyn Miller brings over 30 years' experience in community services, Local Government and child protection sectors, and has practised in both the public and private sectors as a therapist, clinical supervisor, consultant and lecturer.

From 2006-15 Robyn provided professional leadership as the Chief Practitioner within the Department of Human Services in Victoria, was a member of the Victorian Child Death Review Committee for 10 years, and worked as a consultant with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Since 2016, Robyn has been the CEO of MacKillop Family Services, provider of specialist services to vulnerable and disadvantaged children, young people and their families in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia.

**The Hon John Watkins AM (November 2016)**

**MA, LLB, DipEd, HonDLitt**

After sixteen years as a teacher in Catholic schools, The Hon. John Watkins AO served as a member of the NSW Parliament from 1995 until 2008 spending ten years as a Minister in eight portfolios including Education, Police and Transport.

In the three years prior to retiring

from Parliament, John served as Deputy Premier of NSW.

After leaving political life, John was the CEO of Alzheimer's Australia NSW until retiring from that position in October 2017. John served as Chancellor of the University of New England, stepping down in 2014, in 2013 was awarded an honorary doctorate by Macquarie University and in 2015 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

John currently serves on a number of Boards including as Chair of Calvary Health Care, Chair of Mary MacKillop International and Chair of the McKell Institute.

**Dr Kerrie Tuite (February 2018)**

**EdD, Med, BA, Cert Teach**

Dr Kerrie Tuite is a leading Queensland educator with more than 30 years working in schools and senior education policy development and curriculum roles. Since 2009 Kerrie has been the Principal of Mount Alvernia College, Brisbane.

Dr Tuite is a member of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Steering Committee for Senior Schooling Review, and a member of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools, the Australasian Alliance of Girls' Schools and Franciscan Schools Australia.

She is President of the Association of Catholic Secondary Schools Queensland, past President of the Catholic Secondary Principals Association Queensland, Board Director of Catholic Secondary Principals Australia 2011-2015.

**Dr Ruth Shean (February 2018)**

**PhD, MEd**

Dr Ruth Shean, is a former senior public servant and administrator in the Western Australian government with more than 30 years of experience in governance, corporate management and culture change.

Ruth is the former Western Australian Commissioner for Public Sector Standards with responsibility for oversight of legislative and regulatory standards in WA public sector. She is the former Director General of the WA Government's Department of Training and Workforce Development. Previous government CEO roles include Director General of the Disability Services Commission and Director General of the Department for Community Development.

Ruth has extensive corporate experience within the non-government sectors including CEO of the Cerebral Palsy Association and has been on the governing councils of Curtin and Murdoch.

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*continued from page 3...*

## Family

Kevin was proud of his siblings and their families. He appreciated Noel as head of the family, John for his wise counsel and Kath for caring for their mother, with her husband Kevin. He was particularly close to Dorothy and had looked forward to quality times together at Murray Gardens.

He relished his role as Uncle of Kerry, Louise, Paul, Tricia, Mary, Sue, Jill, Anne, Peter, Tim, Sally and Jane and likewise of their families. He was genuinely interested in the lives of all generations of his extended family. He was dearly loved and admired by them. Despite his Parish commitments, he went to great lengths to be available for family celebrations, baptisms and weddings.

I know that many of you have had the benefit of Kevin's joy and celebration with you in the good times, and his deep insight and compassion in the bad times, of your lives.

Sue was the first-born and we were the first of her generation to be married by Kevin. Later he was the principal celebrant at her Requiem. With that insight and compassion, he shared our family's journey with Alzheimer's and supported us in our grief.

## Support

Kevin was grateful for the generous and loving support given by many. They included: Carmel and Brian Butts, for their selfless, enduring support and friendship; Sr. Anne Hagan and Sr. Carina Morton, for their humble and devoted service in their vocation; Fran Kernaghan, for her tireless work as Parish Secretary; Narelle Naughton, Gemma Whitehead and Sandra Dick, for their personal care and organisation; and Tim Landy, for his remarkable medical care.

## Reflection upon his life

How does one adequately describe Kevin's rich life? In short, he was a dedicated post Vatican II priest, who was also guided by those five criteria for his parents.

He *'practised what he preached'* or, in the vernacular of the youth, *'walked the talk.'*

With ease and style, he crossed the barriers of racial prejudice, religious prejudice and religious pride. On the way, with his commitment to ecumenism, he demonstrated, in his understated way, what it takes to be a Christian in its full sense.

He had no difficulty in identifying who was his 'neighbour', for that purpose.

He was a true friend to many, regardless of faith. He listened and genuinely cared.

His Parishioners, the wider



*26th August 1928 to  
21st December 2017*

***"This is Kevin, he is my friend and a priest"***

Christian community and those beyond admired him, as his friend Archdeacon Peter MacLeod-Miller would confirm.

## Conclusion

The motto on the Flanagan coat of arms is *"certavi et vici"* - *"I have fought and conquered"*. The motto of St. Patrick's College, Ballarat is *"facere et docere"* - *"to do and to teach"*, depicted with both Alpha

and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which of course are an appellation of Christ, whereby that motto in context means "to bear witness to Christ by example". This entails an obligation to practise what one preaches.

Kevin, as a humble diocesan priest ordained during Vatican II, accepted God's will for him and truly lived up to his family and school mottoes,

by bearing witness to Christ in both word and deed. He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through his Christian way of living.

All of us have been privileged to share part of Fr. Kevin James Flanagan's journey. He has inspired many and will be greatly missed.

*Eulogy delivered by William Lally at  
Sacred Heart Church North Albury  
Thursday 28th December 2017*



*Father Flanagan in Papua New Guinea*



*Photo by Mark Jesser - The Border Mail*



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# New venue for Diocesan Catechesis of the Good Shepherd training course

**A training course for Level One Part One of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) will be held at St Michael's Parish Centre, Wagga Wagga from April 16-21, 2018.**

The new venue aims to encourage new faces to the training course, as well as laying the foundations for the establishment of an Atrium in Wagga Wagga in the near future.

In the Diocese of Wagga Wagga,

two atriums have recently been running: in Lavington and Leeton parishes. Despite the absence of an atrium in Wagga Wagga, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd type activities are provided by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters for children aged 3 years and over during the local St Monica's Mother's Group which meets at St Michael's Parish Centre once a month.

An atrium is a prepared and ordered environment, a sacred space in which children are introduced to works and materials designed to foster religious experience. The works and presentations in the CGS Atrium are designed using the Montessori principles of education.

The Montessori Method, established by Maria Montessori in Rome in the early twentieth

century, is widely used in dedicated preschools and primary schools across Australia and the world. In fact, more and more families are introducing Montessori principles into their homes in search of the best development for their children. It has a focus on the stages of the child's interest, sensory experience and objects made of natural objects like wood or fabric as opposed to plastic.

But Maria Montessori, as well as being foremost an educator, was a devout Catholic herself and had made observations about the religious life of children in tandem with her other educational observations.

However it would be Sofia Cavaletti, a Scripture scholar, and a Montessori educator Gianna Gobbi, who would apply Montessori's principles to a specifically religious purpose. After many years of research, observation and reflection the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd as we recognise it today, was developed.

Just as Cavaletti and Gobbi handed on their methods and observations to up and coming

catechists, contemporary catechists are formed spiritually and practically by more experienced catechist/trainers in the methodology of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

It is in this tradition that Angela Hague, a Catechist from Sydney with many year's experience in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, will run a 6 day course during the first week of the April school holidays (April 16-21).

The course, although perfect for people wanting to train as Catechists, is also a formative experience for parents of young children wishing to deepen their understanding of their children's capacity for faith, as well as a retreat for all participants.

The cost for the week is \$320 per participant. Billeting and transport arrangements can be made upon request.

**For more information about the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, or to register for the training weekend, please contact Emily Shaw on 0400 524 190 or email [emily-shaw@live.com.au](mailto:emily-shaw@live.com.au)**



## Word Search answers from page 18

E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	G	R
W	C	H	U	R	C	H	O	E	E
H	M	R	S	A	W	D	T	R	S
S	T	E	E	P	L	E	U	E	P
S	T	N	I	A	S	L	L	A	E
Y	H	B	M	A	L	Y	S	N	C
B	R	E	A	D	V	E	C	A	T
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	J



## Christmas at Yoogali

The small, yet inspiring, group of children from Yoogali Public School celebrated Christmas with a cake and a story. The children love having Elvio and Maria visit to help them grow their faith. The children pictured are: Lily, Ashontai, Tiah, Joel, Alex, Nicholas, Kendra and Amber with Elvio & Maria Suine and Vera Sergi.

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# KIDS corner Jokes...

**Why do bananas have to put on sunscreen before they go to the beach?**

*Answer: Because they might peel!*

**Why did the scarecrow win an award?**

*Answer: Because he was the best in his field!*

**What has teeth but does not bite?**

*Answer: A zipper!*

**Knock, knock**

*Who's there?*

*Doris*

*Doris who?*

*Doris locked!*

*Please let me in!*

**What animal needs to wear a wig?**

*Answer: A bald eagle!*



## Science

### Escaping Water

*Water can certainly move in mysterious ways. Get the water from one cup to make its way up hill and back down into a second empty cup with the help of paper towels and an interesting scientific process.*



#### What you'll need:

- A glass of water
- An empty glass
- Food colouring
- Patience
- Some paper towels

#### Instructions:

- Twist a couple of pieces of paper towel together until it forms something that looks a little like a piece of rope, this will be the 'wick' that will absorb and transfer the water (a bit like the wick on a candle transferring the wax to the flame).
- Place one end of the paper towels into the glass filled with water and the other into the empty glass.
- Place a few drops of food colouring into the water.
- Watch what happens (this experiment takes a little bit of patience).

*notice that the empty glass is starting to fill with water, it keeps filling until there is an even amount of water in each glass, how does this happen?*

*This process is called 'capillary action', the water uses this process to move along the tiny gaps in the fibre of the paper towels. It occurs due to the adhesive force between the water and the paper towel being stronger than the cohesive forces inside the water itself. This process can also be seen in plants where moisture travels from the roots to the rest of the plant.*



#### Whats happening:

*Your paper towel rope (or wick) starts getting wet, after a few minutes you will*

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

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Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

**We'd love to hear from you!**



## Word Search

E	R	U	S	A	E	R	T	G	R
W	C	H	U	R	C	H	O	E	E
H	M	R	S	A	W	D	T	R	S
S	T	E	E	P	L	E	U	E	P
S	T	N	I	A	S	L	L	A	E
Y	H	B	M	A	L	Y	S	N	C
B	R	E	A	D	V	E	C	A	T
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	J

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Church  
God

Steeple  
All Saints  
Lamb



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Listen to his witness on his conversion back to the Cathloic Faith through a miraculous healing of Crohns Disease from Our Lord through Fr. Peter Rookey in 1989 in Medjugorje.

David's concerts are unique, humorous and spiritually inspirational. Hear him sing *Let Me Live* (the song that he was told would ruin his career, but in fact, launched it) and a selection of songs from his seven CDs.

**Come along and be spiritually touched and experience the true peace that Our Lord and Our Lady offers to us all.**

**PUT THIS IN THE "NOT TO BE MISSED" SECTION OF YOUR DIARY!**

**It has been 20 years since David last visited Australia.**

There will be CDs, DVDs and books available for purchase on the night.

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### concerned Catholics

of the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese

A response to the Royal Commission

Concerned Catholics is one of several renewal groups across Australia dismayed about church governance, cultural, and structural issues arising from evidence at the Child Abuse Royal Commission over the last 5 years.

Catholics around the world carry a heavy heart over the ecclesiastical turmoil and the hierarchical denial of reality. Many of us feel shame, pain and anger. Rather than remain passive in the pews, we lay people of the church must now step up and find the time to prayerfully, actively, and respectfully ask each other: .....*in my Faith, where to from here?*

Concerned Catholics seeks an effective voice for lay people. Pope Francis (May 2014) encouraged us, to "*bother your pastors, disturb your pastors*" to make our wants known and our voices heard. Those so profoundly damaged by abuse, and by the church's cover-ups, denials, and inertia have brought a wake-up call to every Catholic – our CONCERN is justified.

These heartrending yet galvanising disclosures call us lay people to stand with and offer spiritual and practical support to our ordained clergy. In a spirit of mutual responsibility.....

**Concerned Catholics of Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese seeks to explore:**

- new models of church and more effective lay participation;
- effective vehicles for the participation of women in key decision-making;
- establishment of a diocesan pastoral council with lay leadership;
- agreement for a work plan based on partnership with our bishop, lay people and our committed priests / religious to achieve a reform agenda.

**PUBLIC FORUM – Thursday 22 MARCH 2018 (7pm for 7.30pm) Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, Barton ACT:** All are invited to this, our 3<sup>rd</sup> public forum. Francis Sullivan, CEO, Truth Justice and Healing Council, will provide an analysis of the Royal Commission's final report.

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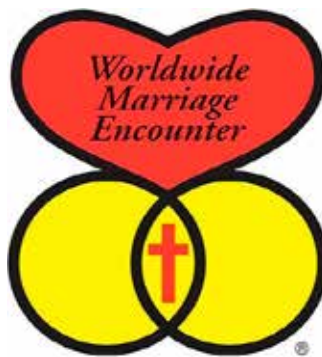
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# Four new psychologists appointed to the Diocese



From left: Anne Hodkinson, Kylie Campbell, Kristy Ward, Sharee McCormack (CSO Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Professional Officer) and Tessa Boller

## Four new psychologists have been appointed across the Diocese.

### Xavier High School

Ms Kristy Ward commenced as the Psychologist at Xavier High School in Albury from January 2018.

Kristy obtained her Bachelor of Psychology from Ballarat University, and her Post Graduate Diploma in Psychology from Monash University.

Kristy has been working in private practise as a Psychologist for the past 10 years. Kristy

has also worked for Gryphon Psychology, Murrumbidgee Division of General Practice, the Greater Murray Area Health Service at Deniliquin, Centacare, Waverly Emergency Adolescent Care - Melbourne and Marian Community - Shepparton.

### St Francis De Sales Regional College

Ms Tessa Boller commenced as the Psychologist at St Francis De Sales Regional College in Leeton from January 2018.

Tessa obtained her Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology) from Charles Sturt University, and her Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology) from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Tessa was employed by the Department of Education as a School Psychologist. Prior to this she was employed by NSW Health as a Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinician, and a Mental Health Support Worker for Centacare, Griffith.

### Kildare Catholic College

Ms Kylie Campbell commenced as the Secondary School Psychologist at Kildare Catholic College in Wagga Wagga from January 2018.

Kylie obtained her Bachelor of Arts Psychology (Honors) from Charles Sturt University and she also holds a Diploma of Management.

Kylie was employed by Relationships Australia as a Clinical Coordinator - Across Programs (Counselling, Post Separation and Family Services). She also

had her own private practice and been a Clinical Leader (Intensive Family Support and Preservation Program) fro Mission Australia, a Family Counsellor for Centacare Wollongong and a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Clinician for the Greater Murray Area Health Service.

### Mater Dei Catholic College

Ms Anne Hodkinson commenced as the Secondary School Psychologist at Mater Dei Catholic College in Wagga Wagga from January 2018.

Anne obtained her Bachelor of Science (Psychology) Honours from the University of Sydney and also holds a Bachelor of Economics.

Anne was employed as the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) Counselling Service Clinical Leader and prior to that was the MLHD Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Clinical Leader and Mental Health Worker. She has also worked with the Wagga Sexual Assault Service as the Coordinator and as part of the after hours crisis service.

**On behalf of the Diocesan and school community we at the CSO extend congratulations to all of the women appointed.**

# BBI-TAITE signs landmark agreement with Catholic Schools in Wagga Wagga

**Teachers and senior educational leaders in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga will benefit greatly from expanded opportunities to gain postgraduate accreditation through a new agreement with BBI-The Australian Institute of Theological Education.**

Under a new Memorandum of Agreement, BBI-TAITE will be the preferred provider of postgraduate qualifications across not only Religious Education but Leadership & Theology as well in Catholic schools in Wagga Wagga to help staff meet accreditation requirements under the Accreditation Framework for Catholic schools in NSW.

Chris Cotter, The Assistant Director of Schools: Catholic

Life and Mission in the Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga, Mr Christopher Cotter said “What we admire most about BBI-TAITE is its willingness to listen to our needs and implement flexible, dynamic programs with rigorous standards and highly qualified lecturers who appreciate the mission and purpose of Catholic education.”

Under the new agreement, BBI-TAITE students in Wagga Wagga will benefit from an expanded face-to-face seminar program which will complement their online learning in Religious Education and Leadership & Theology.

“And we’re particularly excited to welcome the internationally respected theologians, Professor Massimo Faggioli and Professor

Richard Lennan to one of these seminars in Trimester 2 on Leading Ecclesial Communities: Foundations, Challenges and Future”, Mr Cotter explained.

BBI-TAITE’s Principal & CEO, Dr Gerard Goldman said the new agreement with the Catholic Schools Office in Wagga Wagga was a major breakthrough.

“As we’re now in our 2nd year as a Higher Education Provider, we’re delighted to see our Leadership & Theology programs gaining more interest in Catholic schools as we build upon our traditional strengths in Religious Education and Theology”, Dr Goldman explained.

“We’ve also expanded the electives we have on offer this year so that leaders in Catholic education

will also be able to undertake subjects in Governance & Canon Law”, he added.

The Catholic Schools Office, Wagga Wagga said it is also looking forward to strengthening research partnerships with BBI-TAITE. Head of Religious Education and Director of Research, Professor Richard Rymarz has conducted a number of studies involving beginning and early career teachers in Wagga Wagga and there are plans underway to expand this research into the beliefs and values of parents as well.

“We also see a lot of longer term potential in encouraging our school staff to undertake immersion experiences such as pilgrimages to the Holy Land and World Youth Day



Chris Cotter, The Assistant Director of Schools: Catholic Life and Mission in the Catholic Schools Office

and to then link these experiences in with their postgraduate studies with BBI-TAITE through a dedicated immersion unit”, Christopher Cotter added.





# Young Albury local improving education in Timor-Leste

**From familiar Albury to a remote Asia-Pacific community: Life for 25-year old Rhoe Price is about to change as she knows it. This month, the primary school teacher from Springdale Heights will be moving to Timor-Leste to take up a two-year volunteer placement in a developing community.**

Rhoe will be volunteering through Catholic development agency *Palms Australia* as a teacher and mentor for primary and secondary students in Bedois, an area just outside Dili, the nation's capital.

Rhoe will work across multiple primary and secondary schools run by *Paroquia St Teresinha do Menino Jesus* (St Therese of the Child Jesus Parish) to provide high-quality, consistent education and share

best-practice teaching methods to improve the skills of local staff.

Unlike many of the short-term 'voluntourism' programs that have recently gained popularity in Australia, Rhoe's work over two years in Timor-Leste will build the capacity of locals to reduce their dependency on overseas aid. By sharing her skills and providing support, Rhoe will be helping Timorese teachers to develop their own classroom methods, which will improve the quality of education in the community, and provide future opportunities.

Readers interested in finding out more about Rhoe's work in Timor-Leste, supporting her placement or signing up to volunteer themselves can do so by visiting Palms Australia's website, [www.palms.org.au/donate/current-projects](http://www.palms.org.au/donate/current-projects).



*Rhoe (centre-right) with fellow volunteers at the Palms Orientation Course in January. Palms volunteers are prepared over a 9-day live-in retreat-course prior to overseas mission.*

## Bringing out the best in Catholic women



**A program aimed at supporting, encouraging and bringing out the best in Catholic women will be launched in Canberra on International Women's Day.**

The National Catholic Women's Mentoring Program, run by volunteers through the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Office for the Participation of Women, is inspired by the words of St Catherine of Siena: "Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire."

Christine Pace, the 34-year-old woman who had the original idea for the mentoring initiative, says the free program can help women understand the contribution they are making and can make into the future.

"Sometimes we need others to recognise our potential in order for us to see it for ourselves," Ms Pace said.

"Mentoring is the perfect instrument to provide this opportunity."

Andrea Dean, director of the Office for the Participation of Women, concurs.

"In a time when the turmoil caused by the revelations of the Catholic Church's inadequate response to the sexual abuse of children is profound, we can focus on fostering the potential of women so that they can take their place in helping create the Church of the future," she said.

Merici College, a school committed to the transformative education of girls, will host the Canberra launch at 6pm on March 8. It is also one of the partners for the event.

Special guests will come from the fields of law, health, education and politics. All women who appreciate the support and friendship of other women are encouraged to attend and to bring a friend, daughter, sister or mother.

**Tickets are available at [www.catholicwomensmentoring.org.au](http://www.catholicwomensmentoring.org.au) or by calling (02) 6201 9861.**



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# Refocusing our resolutions

by **Emily Shaw**  
*Virtue Ministry graphic designer and writer*

**New Year’s resolutions are easy to make and, often, even easier to break.**

Now, firmly entrenched in the New Year, many of us are already lamenting that our well-intentioned resolutions have fallen by the wayside.

But just because our resolve is weakened does not mean that our initial resolution is lost altogether. In fact, suggest the team at Virtue Ministry (VM), with over three quarters of the year ahead of us we have ample opportunity to refocus and restart our New Year’s resolution.

And what better time for some healthy introspection than the season of Lent.

So how do we go about salvaging the wreck of our New Year’s ambitions?

The VM team recommend following the four R’s: recharge, refocus, restart and re-evaluate. “The first step”, says VM

founder Stina Constantine, “is a spiritual recharge”.

Recalling the words of St Paul in his letter to the Philippians (4:13): “I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me”, VM suggest taking your resolution to prayer to find the inner strength and resolve that you may have been lacking.

Further prayerful discernment about your resolution is an added benefit and leads into the team’s next tip: refocusing your resolution.

“There are a number of questions we can ask ourselves,” says Constantine, “for instance, was my resolution too ambitious or complicated, or was it just too vague? Can I break it into simpler, more realistic expectations that I can meet throughout the year?”

Refocusing your resolution means that ultimately, it will be more specific, attainable and realistic.

““Make smaller goals that build to the bigger goal of the set resolution, and identify how you

will know you’ve achieved a smaller goal,” says Constantine.

And when you’ve devised a more suitable plan then there’s no better time to restart the resolution.

And the final R, re-evaluate, is what you, and your accountability partner can do on a regular basis to help you keep focused and keep your goals in sight. In fact, the VM team are convinced that an accountability partner is crucial.

“Never underestimate sharing your resolution, for accountability,” says Constantine, “with a trusted person who will check in on you, and pray for you.”

This continual evaluation will tell you what you have implemented well and what areas you may need to work on.

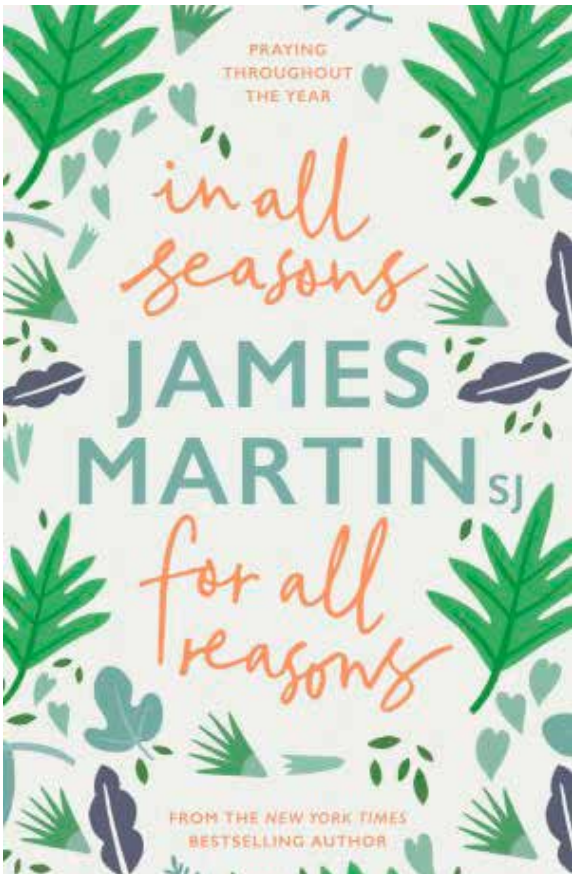
“A good example of the four R’s,” explains Constantine, “is the person whose resolution was to be more patient this year. A great virtue to practice, to be sure, but in need of specificity. They might benefit from asking



themselves: are there specific areas and situations in which my patience is more likely to be tested? Why am I more likely to fail in these situations and what strategies can I put in place to avoid this?”

**The year is not lost, nor**

**should our resolutions be. Turning the tables on our lack of progress in this area, say the VM team, is character building and will help us unleash our capacity, helping us to become the person we’re meant to be.**



## In All Seasons for All Reasons

by Fr James Martin SJ.

*Reviewed by Andrea Dean*  
*Publisher: Liturgical Press 2017*

*In All Seasons for All Reasons*, is a simple and encouraging book by Fr James Martin, Society of Jesus.

Just eighty pages long, this booklet is a collection of monthly columns originally published in “*Give Us This Day* - a monthly publication centred on the Word of God.

*In All Seasons for All Reasons* is a collection of essays. As the title suggests, it explores and affirms various ways and reasons to pray.

Fr Martin is an experienced author and is the editor of *America* - a leading Catholic journal of opinion in the United States. He is also a consultant to the Vatican’s Secretariat

for Communication. In this work he contends that the right way to pray is what works best for you!

With elegance, clarity and accuracy, the author describes styles and forms of prayer in the Catholic tradition that range from the Rosary to prayer with Scripture; and from imaginative prayer to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The one-page articles are divided into three sections as follows:

- A Rich Tradition - 17 essays on the Church’s traditional prayers including the Hail Mary, Our Father, and Centreing Prayer.
- For All Reasons - 32 essays on non-traditional prayers for various reasons

such as Faith Sharing, Journaling, Anger, Gratitude, Distractions, and Enemies.

• In All Seasons - Special prayers for the Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter/Pentecost, and Feasts/ other season time periods.

*In All Seasons and for All Reasons*, will be a helpful introduction for those interested in exploring and extending their prayer as well as a gentle refresher for those who are seeking a renew of their spiritual life.

**While it might be tempting to rush through this book, I recommend a slow savouring of each page.**



# Marian Catholic College travels to Samoa



Erin Golden with the staff and students of St Peter's Primary School.



Veniana with Paul VI College Captains Vanessa and Derrick (Wearing MCC hat).



Alan Le Brocque (Principal) teaching music to one of the young Samoan students

**An old Samoan saying states: "O le al i le pule o le tautua" (the road to greatness is through service). Seven students and four staff members travelled to Samoa on the 22nd of November to spend eight days working with two schools in need of assistance, and truly lived this statement.**

Erin Golden, Bradley Eldridge, Elizabeth Portolesi, Melissa Bortolin, Declan Lynch, Veniana Caqusau and Miracle Tietie gave up their chance of schoolies to partake in an international adventure of generosity and compassion. Paying their own way they were challenged to 'seek to understand' and to use the values and teachings of Marian to aid in the integration of faith, culture and life between Marian and the two Samoan Schools.

This is Marian's third successful trip dating back to 2013. It was then that the

relationship between the high school of Paul VI College and the primary school of St Peters was established with ours. Our College Chaplin at the time proposed that we help in any way possible, these two schools, as they were in dire straits financially and with little to no resources for their students. It was then that Project Sam was established and an international trip of aid was initiated.

In Samoa we were met by the Archbishop Alapati Lui Mataeliga who stipulated how close both schools were to closing and how thankful he was for the efforts of the students past and present and the connections we were making. He called us all missionaries of compassion and faith as we took part in our journey. Whilst there our students and staff participated in traditional ceremonies with the students and created a mural (which was in aid of restoring the College) which depicted signs

and symbols of the two cultures joining together. It symbolised the long term relationship that Marian has committed to Paul VI College with big plans for the future.

A big part of the trip is for students of both Colleges to put a face to the helping hand. In the past Marian has generously donated funds to both Colleges through Year 12 fundraising and the College also established a scheme where graduating students can donate their laptops to Samoa when they have completed their studies. In addition, this year the school was able to send a large shipping container filled with classroom resources. This included desks, stools and chairs, books and cordless drills. Through our visit it is clear that this will provide a much needed boost to their teaching environment. This was made possible by support of SunRice Ricegrowers Ltd who handled the

**The lesson for all was invaluable and if anything students and staff both learnt that you can never take for granted what you have. It also highlighted the power of giving and the importance of helping our fellow man. Service truly is the pathway to greatness and this mission of compassion and service definitely placed everyone on that path.**

transportation of the container.

The lesson for all was invaluable and if anything students and staff both learnt that you can never take for granted what you have. It also highlighted the power of giving and the importance of helping our fellow man. Service truly is the pathway to greatness and this mission of compassion and service definitely placed everyone on that path.

Lastly, both schools in Samoa provided an abundance of gifts for the students and staff. As a continued effort to support Paul

VI and St Peters these gifts will be sold at our Project Samoa day and all funds raised will go directly back to the schools. We would like to thank all that participated and supported this trip. It is refreshing to be reminded how compassionate and generous our youth can be and that they are the same all over the world. Project Samoa is a proud initiative of Marian Catholic College that we are sure will go way into the future.

**Heath Neville**

Yr. 12 Pastoral Coordinator.  
Marian Catholic College, Griffith.

**"O le al i le pule o le tautua" - The road to greatness is through service.**



Marian Catholic College and Paul VI College coming together for a group photo in front of the new mural.



The finished mural.



# The Littlest angel

Poppy's book was launched as an early Christmas present...

**Poppy Hookway is the poster girl for 'different is beautiful' and now her story has been captured in a unique children's book, launched on December 9, 2017.**

'The Littlest Angel' is a whimsical story that illustrates limb difference in a way that is both beautiful and profound – a link to Heaven. And the titular character was modelled on Poppy herself.

Because Poppy Hookway is no ordinary girl – she has a lucky fin.

"Honestly this is one of the best projects I've been a part of," she says. "Not only was this so much fun to put together, and the Hookway family so easy to work with, but the story is such a profoundly beautiful one."

'The Littlest Angel' was launched at Esencia Café, in Lavington only a few weeks prior to Christmas. The intimate gathering and high tea affair was a celebration of both the book's publication and the dignity of all life. Copies of the

"In that moment, I was given a choice: I could choose to dwell and live in that grief and the 'what ifs' of life, or I could choose to take what we've been given and make something so beautiful, it's bound to cause others to stand up and notice."

The lucky fin, a concept popularised by the titular character in Disney Pixar's *Finding Nemo*, has become a colloquial expression to describe limb difference. Poppy's lucky fin is her right arm; the lower part of which failed to form in utero. Her parents, Greg and Anastasia Hookway, are publishing the book under the ironically named Hi-5 for Poppy, the public face of their campaign for limb difference awareness. But publishing a book was not initially a goal of theirs.

"I was searching for books to share with Poppy about limb difference," explains Mrs Hookway, "but there really weren't any available."

Instead, Mrs Hookway penned a post for their Facebook page in early 2017 detailing a conversation between the 'Littlest Angel' and God. The post was tremendously well received and the seed was sown for the creation a new book altogether.

The Hookway's were heavily involved in the design and style of the book as well as the text itself.

The author and illustrator entrusted with bringing their vision to life, Emily Shaw, was honoured to be asked to work on such a project.

book are available through the Hi-5 for Poppy Facebook page for \$15 plus postage.

The Hi-5 for Poppy Facebook page chronicles the Hookway family's journey with limb difference which began when Anastasia and Greg Hookway, having already experienced the heartbreak of pregnancy loss, conceived Poppy. Their excitement was tinged with trepidation.

Then, during the routine 20 week morphology scan they were told that their 'rainbow baby' – a term used to describe the blessing of a child following a miscarriage or pregnancy loss – was going to be unique.

"I will always remember the day we were offered termination," says Anastasia, "Right there the tone was set on how some would value the life of my daughter. Right there my life, and Poppy's life, exploded in beautiful purpose."

"In that moment, I was given a choice: I could choose to dwell and live in that grief and the 'what ifs' of life, or I could choose to take what we've been given and make something so beautiful, it's bound to cause others to stand up and notice."

And notice they do. Poppy's story has featured in newspapers around Australia, *That's Life* and online at *Kidspot*.



All photos accompanying this story are © Hi-5 for Poppy

**You can read more about the Hookway's story, or order your copy of 'The Littlest Angel' by following their Facebook page: Hi-5 for Poppy, or by emailing [hifiveforpoppy@hotmail.com](mailto:hifiveforpoppy@hotmail.com)**



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