



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

FEBRUARY 2020

## Ash Wednesday

*For dust thou art  
and unto dust shalt  
thou return*

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# 2020 - Plenary Council Pilgrimage

Archbishop Christopher Prowse - Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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

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

**Editor/Designer**  
Karene Eggleton

**Printer**  
The Riverina Media Group  
Peter Street Wagga Wagga 2650

**Submissions**  
TOGETHER would not be possible without the voluntary labour and cooperation of many contributors from within the diocese and beyond. Submissions for publication are welcome but not always guaranteed to be printed.

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**Copy deadline**  
15th of the month prior to publication

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**Annual Subscriptions**  
\$33 Australia \$44 Overseas

**Either directly or indirectly we have begun already our Plenary Council Pilgrimage in Australia.** Directly – our representatives coming together in Adelaide (October 2020)and then Sydney (2021) is approaching. Indirectly – our gatherings of all those interested throughout Australian parishes and communities is now well advanced.

I can only – once again – encourage you to participate in our pilgrimage journey together, to where the Holy Spirit is leading the Australian Catholic Church in these times. How can we become a more Christ centred Church?

Through Baptism, we all become participants in the mission of Jesus in His Church. This mission of Jesus has three aspects according to our ancient tradition – sanctifying (priest), prophetic (prophet) and governing (King).

**GOVERNANCE**  
Much emphasis has been given to the governing (Kingly) office of Jesus’ mission. Clearly, the sex abuse scandal raises this dimension. However, even without this scandal in Australia, society’s aggressive secularism demands governing structures and foundational attitudes that are both transparent and accountable. So much of the helpful feedback so far is focussed on governance issues. We are grateful. This is surely a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

**SANCTIFYING**  
When I attended the spectacularly successful Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth (Dec 2019), it was clear to everyone that the almost 6,000 new Millennial Catholics from throughout Australia were focussing on another aspect of Christ’s Mission: the sanctifying (priestly) dimension. The youth took for granted that the Catholic Church is to be transparent and accountable in Her governance. Yet, their incredible thirst and hunger for Jesus in Scripture and Tradition (especially our Sacramental life) was a great surprise to others.

Their insistence was for the Catholic Church in Australia to re-discover with the young a new and vibrant evangelising energy of the Holy Spirit. Just when many were surmising that the young had abandoned the Church, the opposite seems to be happening! The Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation were in great demand. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (long periods of Ritual Silence) were a highlight. It is especially pleasing to know that Regional Youth movements through large parts of Australia have now reached a certain level of sophistication. Returning from national (or international) youth kerygmatic festivals youth are able now to engage in the essential catechetical formation directed at missionary discipleship when they return to their home dioceses.

**PROPHETIC**  
During the Perth Youth Festival, the third dimension of Christ’s mission became, for me at least, manifest in a most subtle manner. It was through the considerable presence of so many youth from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. The prophetic (prophet) dimension of Christ’s mission was heard in their essential “voice” for the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. I recall participating in several Plenary Council – “Listen and Discern Youth

gatherings.” One had a good number of Aboriginal youth present. The affirming atmosphere of the festival gave them extra confidence to share openly their hopes and anxieties. Their sharings were prophetic. How can we be the Church that Jesus wants us to be without allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through this ancient culture in our midst who continue to be marginalised in our land of plenty? There was no doubt about their love of the Catholic Church and their desire to be active in Her future here in this new but ancient land.

**THE HEAD, THE HEART AND THE HANDS**  
Pope Francis often talks about the Church’s mission embracing together the head, the heart and the hands. After all, we are the one Body of Christ. Let us avoid any fragmentation of our tri-partite Baptismal Mission of priest, prophet and King. We need a logical and pragmatic HEAD to embrace the kindly/governance dimension. We ask for a HEART that is open to the sanctifying presence of the Holy Spirit, to a conversion, like the youth. We pray too for HANDS that are ready to serve the marginalised and prophetic voice in our midst (especially the first Australians).

***This is the Plenary Council worthy of the Lord’s blessing!***



## Prayer Intention for February - Pray with Pope Francis

### Listen to the Migrants’ Cries

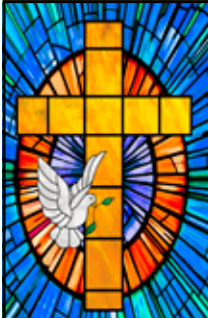
We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

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



Knock knock. “Who’s there?”  
This is a familiar format for a children’s riddle. You knock, I ask, you reply.  
It’s based on a simple action– someone knocks on my door and I ask, “Who is it?”  
Is this a stranger? A friend? A criminal? Who is knocking?  
We’re right to be curious. And it’s ok to ask questions. But should we automatically be suspicious? What if this is a friend, or someone who needs my help?  
This February, Pope Francis asks us to hear the cries of migrants. After all, we shouldn’t bolt the door until we know who is knocking, right? He writes, “Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age” (Pope Francis, Message for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees).

After the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph fled to Egypt with their child. They escape from King Herod who searches for the child “to destroy him” [Matt 2:13]. After this danger passes, the Holy Family returns to their homeland. They were refugees only temporarily. Perhaps they knocked on an unfamiliar door seeking shelter. Imagine Joseph offering to work in exchange for food and housing. Knock knock. “Who’s there?”  
Modern migration is a complex issue. A humane response requires compassion, wisdom, and cooperation from citizens, churches, police, and government leaders. If we shut our ears and lock the doors of our hearts, then we will never hear the cries of the poor seeking protection and opportunity. Jesus says, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”  
Who is knocking at our door? How will we respond?



### 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.



# St Therese of Lisieux relics touring Australia with parents

On the 1st April the St Therese of Lisieux relics will tour Albury with a morning Mass being held at Saint Patrick's Church.

**When St Therese's relics last visited Australia in 2002 an estimated 700,000 Catholics turned out to pray seeking her intercession.** Greater numbers are expected on this tour.

On this occasion her relics will be accompanied by those of two other modern saints: her mother, Zelig and father Louis.

The dates and locations of the visit of the relics of the three saints from the one family were issued in December by Catholic Mission, the Church's agency in Australia which supports missionaries around the world. The official itinerary can be found at [www.catholicmission.org.au/relics-of-saint-therese-of-lisieux](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/relics-of-saint-therese-of-lisieux)

Saints Louis and Zelig Martin are the first married couple to be canonised in the history of the Church, reflecting in part the repeated urgings of the-then Pope John Paul II to find lay candidates whose causes might be promoted.

Throughout his papacy St John Paul II repeatedly called for ordinary laity – men, women and youth - who might be canonised to emphasise the call to personal holiness expressed by our baptismal vocation. This was also strongly emphasised by Vatican II.

Pope Francis canonised Saints Louis and Zelig in 2015.

The relics of the three modern saints will spend two and a half months touring Australian diocese from January 22 to May 10.

There are few – if any – other saints so beloved in the modern Church.

Although she died virtually unknown at the age of 24 in her monastery at Lisieux in France after having more or less forced her way into being accepted as an underage Carmelite at the age of 15, Therese is regarded as a giant of the Christian vocation to holiness.

She died in 1897 but her writings and her reputation for an astonishing (but at the time largely-hidden) sanctity saw public demand for her canonisation continue to grow until she was officially beatified by Pope Benedict XV in 1921 and declared a saint by Pope Pius XI in 1925.

Despite never having set foot outside her monastery after entering, she was named in 1927 as co-patron of the Church's entire global missionary effort, joining the legendary 16th Century Jesuit missionary, St Francis Xavier.

In 1997 Pope John Paul II declared her to be a Doctor of the Church, a title which means an individual is recognised by the Church as a gifted teacher of the

Christian faith. She became the 33rd person to be so recognised in the history of the Church.

Therese was also the youngest, and only the third of four women to be recognised with the title; the three others are fellow Carmelite St Teresa of Avila, St Catherine of Siena and St Hildegard of Bingen.

Therese's appeal has grown steadily since her death.

Key to her influence on the modern Church is the only work she ever wrote, a series of letters on her spiritual journey, which were edited by her sister who also became a Carmelite and eventually published under the title of *The Story of a Soul*.

In her letters, Therese set out her famous 'Little Way' to holiness, which was to seek friendship with God in the small, ordinary daily events of life rather than big achievements or widespread influence.

Circulated first to other Carmelite monasteries, the book was published a year after her death and has had a phenomenal impact on the Church. It has never gone out of print.

Modern devotees of St Therese have included Beat Generation writer Jack Kerouac, philosopher and Nobel Prize winner Henri Bergson, legendary French singer Edith Piaf who maintained that she was cured of blindness as a child through St Therese's intercession, and Mother (now Saint) Teresa of Kolkata, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, who chose Therese for her own name as a religious sister.

**The Most Reverend Gregory Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore wrote the following:**

The relics of St Therese of Lisieux and her parents St Louis and St Marie-Azelie (Zelig) will be taken through a number of dioceses early in 2020. Many people wonder why the Church persists in what seems to be a mediaeval piety, an archaic practice. Why tour the remains of saints and make them available for the veneration of the faithful? Is this an outdated superstition?

Despite the scenes of intense religious devotion around relics, there is certainly nothing magical or talisman like about the relics of saints. Of themselves relics are not holy. It is more correct to say, they are the remains of a holy person, a saint, and on account of their connection to that holy person are revered.

In Australia we are used to caring for



and respecting sacred sites. A place may be sacred for a number of reasons. It may be a place of spiritual significance to a people who identify with and are defined by that place; as is the case with many indigenous Australians. It may be a place where an important event took place and now is part of the national identity, such as Gallipoli. It may be a building in which over hundreds of years people have prayed and worshiped, such as a church or cathedral.

We all have souvenirs of people we have loved, insignificant items of little value, but to us they are treasured gems which move us to remember a loved one or an event. When the item attaches to a person it can bring to mind the attributes and goodness of the person. In some cases it can even encourage us to live according to higher values. The relics of saints fall into this category. Relics are physical remains which connect us with the goodness and holiness of the saint. They remind us of the saint and through the saint move us to live better lives.

The saints who are "visiting" Australia are a mother, a father and their daughter. St Louis and St Zelig are the only married couple to have been canonized, and they have a daughter who was called by Pope St Pius X, the greatest saint of the modern times. St Therese, who died in 1897, was a woman of precocious virtue and prayer. She says, "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." She shows us that holiness is simple and hidden, it does not seek recognition but turning away from self to God, it makes within the human heart a place for Jesus.

As is the case with Jesus, holiness and goodness does not exist in a vacuum. It has a context. In Jesus' case the context was the holy family. Extraordinary goodness does not exist in isolation. If you see a good child, you can generally



presume that this goodness comes through the parents. Jesus was taught by Mary and St Joseph. St Therese is the daughter of holiness. The Church recognized that goodness is caught, and so investigated her parents, and found two saints.

These three saints show us the integrity of virtue and holiness. The path to holiness is the path of struggle and ordinary life. It is carried and lived with love, and dependence on God. They experienced the mercy of the Father and this mercy crafted the way they lived and loved. In this they are of great relevance for us. They have been where we are, and have together allowed God to perfect them. Being a family, the Martins prove that the family is the seed ground of holiness and goodness. We can learn from them.

Visit one of the churches which will host the relics. Pray and experience the saints. You will experience God and perhaps your life will change. **As with a sacred site or souvenir, you can, through the saint, experience and connect with the holiness of God.**



# Collaboration will enhance Church’s disaster response

A new whole-of-Church initiative to help people and communities recover from the current bushfire crisis will set the blueprint for how the Catholic Church responds to domestic natural disasters in the future.

**Earlier last month, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a number of other national organisations encouraged Catholics to donate to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal, which is supporting people who have lost loved ones, homes, property and animals.**

Those national organisations, representing parishes, religious orders, social service agencies, schools, hospitals and aged and community care providers, have spent several weeks working collaboratively in response to the deadly bushfire season – which is not yet over.

“Our response to the bushfires, and the drought that has exacerbated the fires, has demonstrated once again the collective power of the Catholic Church to respond to disasters in all sorts of ways,” Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

“At its core, the Catholic Church is about people, about families, about parishes, about school communities, about ministries that proclaim and live out the Gospel of Jesus. Most of those ministries are local, but there is a national – and universal – dimension of the Church that can sometimes be under-utilised.”

The new national collaboration is called CERA – Catholic Emergency Relief Australia – and will serve as a coordination point for Catholic agencies responding to natural disasters.

The founding organisations are the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia and the National Catholic Education Commission. Other Catholic organisations are expected to join the collaboration soon.

Ursula Stephens, the CEO of Catholic Social Services Australia, said organisations like CatholicCare, Centacare and Vinnies are embedded in local communities and are therefore trusted and able to deliver the right services.

“One of the Church’s key social teachings is about ‘subsidiarity’, which means that we empower local communities to respond to their realities as they best see fit,” she said.

“Alongside that, though, sits ‘solidarity’, which compels us to see the needs of others and work collaboratively to respond to those needs. That response can be most effective when it’s coordinated and focused.”

Dr Stephens said while the national Vinnies appeal continues to be a channel for people to support Catholic agencies responding to the bushfire crisis, CERA will also receive donations that will be distributed through a recovery grants application process managed by Catholic Social Services Australia.

“We are establishing the appropriate governance, accountability and transparency measures to ensure that those who see the Church as a key responder to national emergencies know financial and practical support is going to those who need it,” Dr Stephens said.

“CERA will allow us to help people on the long road to recovery from this ongoing bushfire crisis and to mobilise as soon as our country is struck by another natural disaster – mindful that it’s sadly a matter of ‘when’, not ‘if’.

“This is ultimately about us being more responsive in a crisis. This is faith in action and a call to follow our Christian vocation.”



One of the key features of the CERA website, which was launched today, is the volunteer management portal. It will allow organisations to list volunteer opportunities for people looking to provide practical, material and financial support in the journey of recovery.

“Our parishes, agencies and ministries are constantly receiving requests from individuals and families who need a place to stay, who need new clothes or appliances, who need a listening ear,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“Much of that support will come from government, from Catholic and other charitable organisations, but volunteers can carry out some of the urgent tasks to help people in their daily lives.”

Archbishop Coleridge said Catholics, individually and collectively, continue to pray for an end to the current fires, for rain to quench drought-stricken lands, for those affected by the fires and for those on the front line of responding to the fires.

Dr Stephens said CERA’s focus will be on domestic natural disasters, noting that Caritas Australia is the Church’s agency tasked with responding to emergencies overseas.



CERA PARTNERS:



Visit the CERA website at [www.cera.catholic.org.au](http://www.cera.catholic.org.au)

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# The Haven provides a haven to locals impacted by the bushfires

Catholic Healthcare’s The Haven Residential Aged Care Home in Wagga Wagga opened its doors recently to the residents of Blakeney Lodge, Tumut and residents of Tumut, Batlow and Tumbarumba impacted by the bushfires.

**The Haven welcomed 27 residents from Blakeney Lodge in Tumut as well as patients from Tumut Hospital and residents from Batlow and Tumbarumba.**

Residential Manager of The Haven, Stacy Moses said, “We were contacted by the Disaster Recovery Unit in the local area to ask if we could help those in the community who needed extra care and support.”

“We are also providing respite services for those families impacted by the fires and who need to protect their property and stock.

“We are only too happy to help and accommodate the visiting residents, patients and community members until the catastrophic fire danger has passed. Quality care, compassion, hospitality and kindness are who we are at The Haven.

“Of course, while we are a bit of a full

house, we still have room to welcome new residents,” added Stacy.

Everyone is doing well. Families and friends are visiting the residents, and knitting groups are on the go, locals are coming in to give manicures, staff are providing music, DVDs and organising activities such as games, playing Bingo and doing crossword puzzles.

“It’s been a supportive atmosphere. It’s heartening to see the visiting residents feel so safe and comfortable now. They are so vulnerable and have been through quite an ordeal – moving to a new home, knowing that their families are affected by the fires. Yet in the process, they have made some lovely new friends,” said Stacy.

“Staff and the Residential Manager of Blakeney Lodge, Kerry Kelly have also come to The Haven to support their residents and provide familiarity and stability. They have gone above and



Residents Margery Smith and Dorothy O'Donovan with RN from Blakeney Lodge, Leanne King

beyond to help those in need. Some of our people had to evacuate their own homes in Tumut due to the fires. Yet they still come to work at The Haven to care for the residents.

“In the spirit of hospitality, staff from The Haven have offered accommodation to their colleagues if needed. There’s a real sense of community and everyone is willing and doing their part to help out during this crisis period,” added Stacy.

Local community members, including doctors and pharmacists, have been equally incredible in their support.

“We are especially grateful and appreciate the services provided by Dr Lee Jeffrey from the Riverina Family Medicine. The team at Riverina Family Medicine have been our main on-call doctors assisting residents, visiting residents and patients during this time. The offers from many doctors in Wagga to assist has been incredible,” said Stacy.

The hot weather conditions were forecast to get worse and the current smoke blanket was set to stay so the visiting residents stayed at The Haven a little while longer.

# The Haven fighting bushfires with seed bombs

With the bushfires taking a heavy toll on the animal and plant population, residents and staff from The Haven are working to regreen and regenerate the environment with a phenomenon called seed bombs.

**The Haven’s Maintenance Officer, Jade Kemp, who also has a background in horticulture, had heard of seed bombs and thought it was a great way for the residents to become involved.**

Jade’s wife works for WIRES Wildlife Rescue, and together they were keen to help their community recover from the fires at the grassroots level.

“Seed bombs are not explosive,” said Jade. “Seed bombs are a powerhouse mixture of compost, soil, seeds and clay, and air drying them in balls like ravioli. These can then be thrown into devastated bushland areas that will grow into plants and trees over time. The way they work is that when it rains, the clay coating dissipates and the seeds germinate,” he added.

“We have been working with Landcare to ensure the seed bombs we have made contain seeds specific to the area where needed to replenish the flora and fauna.

We are simply replacing what was there originally; we are not introducing new plants.”

“Some of the plants we hope to replenish are correas, grazing plants such as kangaroo grass and poa grass, and ground covers such as hardenbergia. The habitat includes small animals and insects such as native finches, moths, mountain pygmy possums, wallabies and kangaroos.

“There’s a real sense of community, and everyone is doing their part to help out during this crisis period. The support in the community has been overwhelming. The Haven has donated \$500 for the seeds, local businesses such as Chaston Street Nursery and Wagga Wagga Nursery have donated seeds, and the Wagga Wagga Pottery Club has donated the clay,” said Jade.

The residents of The Haven and visiting residents from Blakeney Lodge have enthusiastically embraced the idea of putting together the seed bombs.



Blakeney Lodge Residents at The Haven, Dot O'Donovan, Margaret Bell and Margaret Walsh with Pastoral Coordinator, Ola Samuel

“Not only did they have fun in the process, the residents felt they made a valuable contribution and had an important role to play in the firefighting effort. In all, we made 1,000 seed bombs. The residents made a huge difference, and I am proud of every single one of them,” said Jade.

“We will be donating the seed bombs to Murrumbidgee Landcare for the restoration of state forests and WIRES Wildlife Rescue to disperse on private lands. I hope that the seed bombs will regenerate the areas destroyed by the bushfires of say about 10 football fields,” he added.

Residential Manager of The Haven, Stacy Moses said, “There is so much devastation following the fires. It has been a stressful time for all. We opened our doors to the residents of Blakeney Lodge, Tumut and residents of Tumut, Batlow and Tumbarumba impacted by the bushfires. The fires have also impacted many of our staff. Some were unable to return home. It’s wonderful to see everyone coming together to do something positive and meaningful. I am grateful to Jade for bringing his excellent seed bomb initiative to our home.”



# Vinnies confirms every cent will go to bushfire victims

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to assure the community that every dollar raised for the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal will be used to support the people impacted by the fires.

**Vinnies will not, and has never kept funds from disaster appeals for any other work or cause.**

During the bushfire crisis, Vinnies volunteers are on the ground in hundreds of communities across the country, helping people as they deal with the immediate aftermath of fires. Our volunteers live and work in the impacted communities and will stay alongside those people affected for the long months of recovery ahead.

Vinnies has from day one been in communities providing assistance from our own funds and over the past three weeks has been actively distributing assistance from the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal. This includes financial packages; essential items such as food, water, clothing and bedding; and emotional support for those affected by the bushfires.

The Vinnies Bushfire Appeal has raised \$12.5 million to support people impacted by bushfires in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, SA and the ACT. Vinnies has distributed more than \$2.4 million nationally with a further \$250,000 already processed

for distribution in the coming days – totalling \$2.65million from the Appeal funds already distributed. In addition, we have disbursed significant amounts of material goods including food, water, clothing and bedding.

The process of assessing people and establishing their need does take some time but we are focused on helping as many people as possible as quickly as

we can. As we access more communities and establish need, we are also accelerating the rate of response.

No administration fees are taken from this appeal, meaning the money raised goes directly to the relief and recovery effort.

Vinnies is focused on doing what it has always done – assist people to rebuild their lives as they re-establish their homes, their livelihoods and their spirit. We will provide assistance now and during the difficult months ahead for those people who have lost everything.

Barnie van Wyk, CEO of Vinnies Canberra/Goulburn, has been visiting communities on the far South Coast this

week and has reached out to the Minister Constance’s office to meet directly over the past two days. Vinnies NSW CEO Jack de Groot visited the South Coast two weeks ago and has also offered to meet Mr Constance next week.

We are committed to standing by our communities, helping them to get through today, tomorrow and for the future. We are so grateful to our volunteers and to the many thousands of compassionate people who have donated to the Vinnies Bushfire Appeal.

**People seeking assistance can contact Vinnies on 13 18 12 or visit [www.vinnies.org.au/bushfireassistance](http://www.vinnies.org.au/bushfireassistance)**

# VINNIES BUSHFIRE APPEAL

GO TO [BUSHFIREAPPEAL.COM.AU](http://BUSHFIREAPPEAL.COM.AU)  
CALL 13 18 12 OR DONATE IN-STORE

# Messages of love and compassion flow from global Catholic family for those affected by Australian Bushfires

At this time of crisis for many Australian communities, Caritas Australia has been touched to receive many messages of solidarity from the global Catholic community.

**Catholic and Caritas agencies have reached out not only with compassionate messages but also to find out how they can provide support.**

“To all those that have expressed their support for Australia in one form or another, we express our immense gratitude and unwavering appreciation,” said Caritas Australia’s CEO Kirsty Robertson.

Caritas Australia is the international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia and a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the world’s largest humanitarian networks with 169

agencies operating in over 200 countries and territories.

“It truly is a blessing for us to receive such an expression of love from our partners and a reminder of the reciprocity of our relationships within the Caritas family. I wanted to relay that outpouring from our partners overseas to our Australian communities,” said Ms Robertson.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are organising a fundraiser within the next few weeks to support Australians affected by the bushfires. They expressed in their



Staff at the Catholic Bishops Conference gather in Port Moresby, having expressed their solidarity with Australia during the Bushfire Season.

appeal letter: “As Christians we stand in solidarity sharing the pain and suffering of families who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses and eco-systems due to the raging bushfires.”

In another example of solidarity, our colleagues at Caritas Bangladesh said, “We would like to express our solidarity with our Caritas Australia family in these times of extreme trials. Our heart goes out

to the people who have been affected with the devastation (of the fires) and pray to the Almighty that they are able to find the strength to cope with the situation”.

Ms Robertson said, “Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go to all who have been affected by the fires. We thank the global Catholic and Caritas communities for your support and prayers during this time.”



# How to talk to your children about Australia's bushfire emergency

It is easy to feel overwhelmed and devastated by the catastrophic scenes emerging from Australia’s vicious bushfires. Unicef Australia has the following tips to help comfort and protect children.

**Families across the country are on edge. Sometimes, children don’t have ways of understanding what they see and can be particularly vulnerable to feelings of anxiety, stress and sadness.**

So how do we help our children cope with this unprecedented emergency? How do we make them feel safe? Unicef’s years of experience in providing counseling and emotional support to children impacted by disaster tells us that children and young people respond differently to disaster than adults.

Some may react immediately with changes in behaviour. These changes may include acting out, becoming clingy or changes in sleep patterns or they may be inward focussed with the child becoming withdrawn and quiet. Some children may show signs of difficulty at a later stage. Their needs will vary depending on their ages and how much they understand of what they see.

But having an open, supportive discussion with your kids can help them understand, cope and even make a positive contribution. These conversations aren’t easy, but can be crucial to ensuring that children feel safe after a disaster. Here is a guide for how to talk with children overwhelmed by Australia’s devastating bushfires.

- 1. Focus on the child, not the distress**  
Start by asking your kids’ permission to talk about the issue. Follow their lead and if they don’t want to discuss it, don’t push it.  
Some children may be eager to talk about their concerns while others might find it difficult. Just remind your children that they can talk to you, their teachers and other trusted adults whenever they like.  
Drawing, stories and other activities may help to open up a discussion. Don’t dismiss or avoid their concerns. Be sure to acknowledge their feelings and assure them it’s natural to feel sad or scared about these things.
- 2. Be honest, explain the truth**  
Children have a right to truthful information about what is happening in the world but adults also have a responsibility to keep them safe from


“ We know from our work on the ground that it is extremely important for children affected by disaster to get back to playing and learning so that they can regain a sense of normalcy and routine. ”

- distress. Use age-appropriate language, be mindful of their reactions and be sensitive to their level of anxiety.
- This video from ABC’s Behind the News explains the bushfires in Australia through the eyes of children, using safe images and language that is easy to understand.  
<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/bushfire-season/11505884>
- If you don’t know the answer to their questions, use it as an opportunity to explore the answers together.
- 3. Offer reassurance**  
Tell your children that you love them and remind them that the adults in their lives are doing everything they can to keep them safe. Plan to spend extra time with them as they get past the distress and anxiety. Children are resilient and hopeful.
- 4. Help children get back to their normal routine**  
We know from our work on the ground that it is extremely important for children affected by disaster to get back to playing and learning so that they can regain a sense of normalcy and routine.  
In crisis spots around the world, Unicef sets up child-friendly spaces where children have a place to feel safe, learn and play. Help your child regain a sense of normalcy by encouraging them to take part in activities they enjoy like playing with friends, reading and drawing.
- 5. Show them all the good people trying to help**  
It’s important for children to know about the acts of bravery, generosity and kindness from ordinary people trying to help families impacted by the bushfires.  
Sharing stories of volunteer firefighters, community leaders



Children play at the show-grounds in the southern New South Wales town of Bega where they are camping after being evacuated from nearby sites affected by bushfires on December 31, 2019. © UNICEF/UNI266318/Davey/AFP-Services

- and every day Australians showing compassion can be comforting and reassuring.
- 6. Show them how they can help**  
Talking to children and showing how they can help others can be empowering and a vital step to restoring confidence. Get together and brainstorm ideas about what small or big actions you or they can take. Together, your kids and their friends can raise money, make posters or any other creative ideas that spring to mind.
- 7. Take care of yourself**  
You’ll be better able to help your kids if you’re coping well too. Children will pick up on your own response to the news, so it helps them to know you’re calm and in control.  
If you’re feeling anxious or upset, take time for yourself and reach out to other family, friends and trusted people in your community. If you want some extra help, get in touch with beyondblue.  
Make time, however small, to do things you enjoy and join your kids in doing something constructive to help the situation.
- More resources**  
The National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health (NWC) has put together a collection of evidence-based resources from the Centre’s Community Trauma Toolkit, developed together with the Australian National University's Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma, Loss and Grief Network. These materials focus on supporting children and families during and in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. <https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/toolkits/community-trauma-toolkit/immediate/>  
While media coverage during times of disaster or traumatic events is important, it is also prolific and can focus on the most frightening aspects of the event. Adults need to be mindful of how much exposure children have to coverage on TV, radio or the internet. This factsheet will help adults to support children to cope with the media coverage they see of a disaster. <https://emergingminds.com.au/resources/traumatic-events-the-media-and-your-child/>  
Disasters and traumatic events are by nature, very stressful and it is normal to feel overwhelmed. However, it is important to remember that even after facing a disaster, most adults and children will cope and recover over time with the right help and support. This short video looks at how to support children immediately after a disaster or traumatic event. <https://vimeo.com/280459392>



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# Kildare Catholic College turned into a bushfire donation and collection centre

During the Christmas holidays Kildare Catholic College became a bushfire donation and collection centre whilst people from surroundings areas were being evacuated from their homes.

**The local community really came together to help those in need. Wagga had registered over 1100 evacuees from Batlow, Tumbarumba, Talbingo and Adelong.**

Kildare would like to thank the thousands of people who donated to the centre over the two weeks they were operating. The generosity and quick response to requests was amazing.

Thank you to over 150 volunteers who donated their time including many Kildare students. Your selflessness, problem solving and compassion was beyond compare.

Kildare would also like to thank the many businesses who made significant contributions to the centre. If we have left anyone off this list we apologise. Things got pretty hectic at times so it is more than likely we have missed some. If you get the chance please support these businesses:

- Allied Pickfords
- Animal Rescue Collective
- Australia Post
- Australian SriLankan Cultural Association (WASCA)
- Barbeques Galore Wagga Wagga
- Bendigo Bank
- BIG W - Wagga

- Boader Small Animal Rescue
- Bunnings Warehouse - Wagga
- Charles Sturt University
- Chemworks Wagga
- Coles - Glenfield Park
- Crackerjack Cafe and Takeaway
- Darryls Farm Contracting and Firewood
- Dave Lugdon Catering
- Foodworks Lake Albert
- Foodworks Turvey Park
- GAZMAN Clothing
- Griffith IGA and Community
- Isabelle Tudor Naturopath
- JDM Removals
- John McGlynn
- Kildare Catholic College Parents and Students
- Landmark Wagga Wagga - Livestock Operations
- Mars Pet Supplies
- Michael O'Reilly Pharmacy
- Moorong Veterinary Clinic
- My Chemist Estella
- Narrandera Medical Centre
- New Oceanic Take Away
- PACK & SEND Australia
- Petbarns Customers
- PFD Wagga
- Plush Hairdressing
- Priceline Australia
- Riverina Co Op
- Riverina Day Surgery
- The Riverina Hotel
- Riveina 4WD Club
- Riverina Medical Centre
- Riverina Medical supplies
- Riverina Party Hire
- Riverina Truck Show and Kids Convoy
- Scribbles Cafe



Above: These 3 gentlemen turned up in a truck, full of donations from the Indian community in Parramatta in Sydney. They drove to Wagga and turned straight back around to drive back to Sydney once they unloaded the truck.

- Southcity Pharmacy Wagga
- South City Quality Meats
- Southwest Stockfeeds
- SunRice
- Tarcutta RFS
- Teys Australia
- The Reject Shop - Glenfield Park & Central
- The Source Bulk Foods
- Tip Top - Wagga
- Turvey Park Pharmacy
- United Furniture Carriers (Maurice and Pablo)
- Wagga Fruit Supply
- Wagga Motors
- Westend Sandwich Shop
- Wiseman's Organic Produce
- Woolworths - Koorngal, Marketplace & Wagga North
- WWBH Childrens Ward

Right: Chris and his apprentice from Golden Gas & Plumbing supplied materials and made some wildlife watering systems to be sent out by WIRES to help wildlife access water.

Below: Some of the many volunteers.





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## A Good Life - Autism

Planning for an (extra) ordinary life. This event is for disability providers, parents, carers and participants on the spectrum.

**This workshop will cover:**

- The yin and yang of autism – seeing the positives in place of the negatives
- Long term goal setting
- Planning goals
- How to break large goals down into manageable components
- Task Planning
- Finding Help along the way

**Please register to this free event at:**  
<http://becriverinaevents.eventbrite.com/>



**Wagga Wagga**  
Wednesday 25 March  
5:30pm  
Riverina Business Enterprise Centre  
70 Coleman Street

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**Leeton**  
Thursday 26 March  
5:30pm  
Leeton Visitors Centre  
10 Yanco Avenue



# Multi-faith bushfire vigil held

Representatives of Wagga's Muslim and Catholic community joined forces recently to promote community care and support for those affected by the bushfires.

**Dr Afzal from the Muslim Association Riverina contacted Father Paddy Sykes and Joan Saboisky as representatives of Wagga's Catholic faith, with the idea to host a prayer and remembrance vigil at Victory Memorial Gardens in Wagga.**

Informed by their religious traditions, the core group wrote liturgy of appropriate prayers that focused on the immediate needs of the Riverina community.

"The prayers reflect the loss of life, property, livestock and those who are especially deep in distress or anxiety," Dr Afzal said.

"Prayers for those fighting the fires, for them to have the strength to continue. Prayer for our political leaders and those who are leading the relief efforts."

The service had about 250 attendees and was opened with a hymn by the Vanuatu Choir, which was made up of Pacific Islander workers who were in Batlow to pick fruit when they were displaced by the Dunns Road Bushfire.

The choir earned multiple rounds of applause for their rendition of *Amazing Grace* and they also closed out the service with a medley of gospel songs.

Father Paddy Sykes's opening prayer covered the bush fires across Australia for the past few months and the fires that struck the South West Slopes region after Christmas. "Fire has been raging around this great continent like a wild beast, consuming all in its path," he said. "We have been saddened by the loss of human life, by the loss of homes, buildings, livelihoods, livestock, pets



Member of Wagga's Catholic association Joan Saboisky and Muslim Association of Wagga chairperson Dr Waseem Afzal have joined forces to host Wednesday's vigil. Picture: Emma Hillier

and infrastructure, by the challenges of evacuation by the devastation of native flora and fauna."

In the concluding prayer, Waseem Afzal from the Muslim Association of Riverina said it was "so heart-warming" to see the community in solidarity. "Prayer is a way of unloading our burdens ... Here I am, in the company of all of you, unloading my own heart and imploring the most merciful God to help all those affected by these bush fires," he said.

# ErinEarth's Ben Holt named Environmental Citizen of the Year

A new award introduced this year was the Environmental Citizen of the Year, with Ben Holt named the inaugural recipient.

**What an exciting night at the Wagga Wagga Australia Day Awards Ceremony. ErinEarth's very own Education and Promotions Officer extraordinaire, Ben Holt, was presented with the inaugural Environmental Citizen of the Year award.**

This award recognises Ben's passion and commitment to educating about climate change and how we can and need to adapt to it. Ben models this in how he lives, works and took many steps to start this community education process long before starting with ErinEarth. Congratulations Ben! We are very proud of you and the work that you do for and in our community.

**Remember that ErinEarth Native Garden opens its bespoke iron gates every Wednesday and Friday to help the local community unwind and appreciate nature at their own pace.**

This half hectare native garden, situated in the heart of Wagga, has a unique collection of native grasses, shrubs and trees that is guaranteed to help you downshift out of the rat race and tune in to the sights and sounds of nature.

Located at 1 Kildare Street, Turvey Park, ErinEarth Native Garden is the location of local not-for-profit charity, which aims to help us all tread lightly on the Earth and live a sustainable life. ErinEarth offers volunteering opportunities and educational services aimed at helping the people of Wagga live sustainably and respectfully on Wiradjuri country.

**Our garden is open 9-4 Wednesdays and 5-7 pm Fridays during the school term. We can be contacted on 6925 7150 or on our Facebook Page "ErinEarth". Follow us on Instagram "erinearthwagga".**



Brad Farmer, Ben Holt and Wagga Wagga's Mayor Cr Greg Conkey OAM



**ErinEarth**  
**opening times**

**Come and relax, unwind and appreciate nature.**

ErinEarth is open Wednesdays 9am - 4pm and also every Friday night during Daylight Savings time from 5pm – 7pm.

*The Garden is looking particularly good at the moment so come on in for a look.*

**ErinEarth - 1 Kildare St, Wagga Wagga**





# GIVE IT UP For Lent

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia’s annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world’s poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. There is a different story for each week of Lent for you to see how Project Compassion is making a difference.

## Shirley from The Philippines

Shirley, 36, is an indigenous Manide woman living in a remote province of the Philippines. She is a mother of four and the sole breadwinner of the family, as her husband is sick. But Shirley was struggling to support the whole family and keep her children in school.

**Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage, limiting their access to education, employment and healthcare.**

But thanks to Caritas Australia’s Supporters, Shirley’s life has transformed. She is now leading her community to take a stand against discrimination, improve health and

education, and pave the way for a better future.

Unequal access to health services means that many indigenous children and families cannot access basic medical care. Preventable diseases, such as tuberculosis, dengue fever and measles are common among their community, and there is a high maternal and new-born mortality rate.



Shirley (centre) poses for a picture with members of her Manide community outside their Tribal Hall in Camarines Norte, Philippines

With Caritas Australia’s support, Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker and a leader in her community. She has learned to supplement her income as is able to feed her family. The program has also helped Shirley’s children with school fees, uniforms and supplies.

Shirley says there’s still a long way to go to fight for better employment opportunities for the Manide tribe and to reduce discrimination, but together they’ll get there.

Your support is life-saving for people experiencing poverty and oppression. Please help more people like Shirley gain confidence and respect within their community and help improve the conditions of indigenous people around the world. **Let’s Go Further, Together.**

“I became the voice of my tribe to have their needs heard,” Shirley says. “As a trained health worker, I am confident to talk, to mingle with non-indigenous people, even with government employees.”



Shirley and her children outside their home

**“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love.” (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)**

## Phany from Cambodia

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany, lives in a village in western Cambodia. Struggling to earn a living as a rice farmer, she was forced to leave her daughter behind in the village, to take up construction work in the city.

**Then in 2016, Phany joined a Caritas supported program, learning more productive farming and irrigation techniques. Her community learned to work together for better water management, to combat drought.**

Over 70 percent of Cambodia’s population live in rural communities – and the farming family’s living in

poverty are the most food insecure. Thirteen percent of Cambodians live below the poverty line, while 35 out of every 1000 babies die due to malnutrition.

In 2016, Phany joined the Upholding Community Dignity Together program, where she learned new farming techniques, such as a drip irrigation system which enabled her to get



Phany working in one of her gardens



# PROJECT COMPASSION

a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water for drier periods. She also learned how to grow vegetables and raise chickens and ducks. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes.

With your help, mothers like Phany can continue to uplift their communities and provide food for their families. A brighter future for women, men and their families can start today.

**Let's Go Further, Together.**



**\$50**

can buy 50 chicks for a small farming family, increasing their supply of food and ability to earn an income in CAMBODIA



“ I am proud that I was a farmer who had no skills and now I can earn and improve my living, share my knowledge and also improve solidarity in the family and amongst our neighbours,” Phany says. “I live better than before, I’m not as tired. I can earn and live in the village, I don’t need to go to city to find job and not interrupt our class time. ”



Phany and her husband Seiha prepare feed for their chickens at their home in Pursat District, Western Cambodia.

**“The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. ” (Pope John Paul II)**

## Barry from Australia

Father of four, Barry, embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family.

**Barry, a Gamilaroi man originally from western NSW, remembers his early years as a time of enormous hardship. He didn't have a stable home or support network and was mostly brought up by his grandparents.**

He became a father in his late teens and was suddenly faced with responsibilities for which he wasn't ready. He started drinking heavily, behaviour that he'd witnessed previously.

Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in Red Dust Healing

– a cultural healing program, which encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within. The program addresses family and personal relationships, and what may have been lifelong patterns of violence, abuse and neglect.

Red Dust Healing Founder, Tom Powell, is humbled that the program has won numerous awards and helped over 16,000 people like Barry across Australia.

Today, thanks to the Red Dust Healing



Barry standing next to his sacred tree in a forest near Bateman's Bay, Australia.

program, Barry is an inspirational father to his four girls and a respected leader in his community. He now facilitates Red Dust Healing workshops and helps others through their healing process. A brighter future for men, women and their families can start today. **Let's Go Further, Together.**

Together will run three more stories from India, Malawi and Papua New Guinea in the next issue.

**To donate to Caritas visit:**  
<https://lent.caritas.org.au/donate/>



**GO FURTHER TOGETHER**

“ I had to make some changes – not for me, but for my daughters,” Barry said. “I just thought to myself, why keep doing this? That ripple effect will travel, it will flow on to my girls and my grandchildren. ”



Barry teaching his daughter dot painting



**\$2,000**

can enable a group of vulnerable men to attend a "train the trainer" Red Dust Healing workshop so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in AUSTRALIA



**GIVE IT UP**

*For Lent*

**“There is no true peace without fairness, truth, justice and solidarity. ” (Pope John Paul II)**



# Be the Light. Be the Hope.

David Enever is a teacher at Mater Dei Primary in Wagga Wagga. He initially started writing songs to combat insomnia from being a new parent and now performs concerts within our schools and parishes.

**David was born and raised in Wagga Wagga, growing up on a now defunct dairy farm. Having more of an early interest in cricket, he only really got into playing music late, learning guitar after finishing high school, and learning some piano basics through books his grandmother gave him.**

David graduated from the final class of Wagga's Trinity Senior High School and studied to become a primary school teacher through his home town's Charles Sturt University.

After playing music at a variety of Christian Schools and churches in both New South Wales and Victoria for the past decade, David often considered writing his own Christian music. What really initiated this though was his third child Toby, who would often wake his wife Caitlin and him up in the middle of the night, making it a real struggle to go back to sleep. He discovered a cure to this insomnia; reading daily scripture and its reflections, then writing lyrics to them! After he wrote enough to perform a one hour set (albeit with some dad jokes and teaching in between ditties) David was able to perform a concert for his school. Gaining confidence from this, and support from his school system, he was able to perform ten more school concerts around his region during 2019, all while teaching full time. This year, in 2020, David's cutting back some of his teaching hours, aiming to perform even more.

His aim is to assist in Christian faith formation in schools and for the general public through the release of music and by providing concerts.

David's school concerts aim to encourage and

support faith formation through stimulating reflection by singing and moving to scriptural based songs. Friendly dialogue, with the occasional 'dad joke', also help to engage student thinking around Christian themes.

Look out for a DEMusic Concert in your area:

**Monday February 17**

Sacred Heart Primary School, Tocomwal

St Mary's Primary School, Corowa

**Monday March 23**

St Anne's Primary School, North Albury

**Monday April 6**

Henschke Primary School, Wagga Wagga

**Monday September 14**

St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Wodonga

**Monday September 21**

St Michael's Primary School, Kaleen

As if David isn't busy enough, he has also produced his debut album titled *Be the Light (Be the Hope)*. It is a collection of some of the songs he regularly perform in concerts. The first few songs link to Old Testament themes and then it transitions to the Gospels through two songs about John the Baptist. From here, most songs link to Jesus gathering His disciples, teaching and performing miracles, while there is also a song about St Paul's conversion and a reflection on why we say 'Amen'. In addition to all of these, there is also a song that was written for Father's Day, which has been received well.

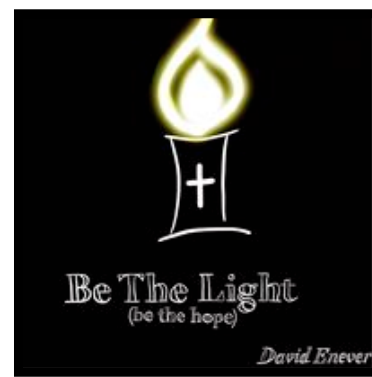
**In February and March, 50% of album sale profits will be donated to bushfire relief (split between St Vincent de Paul & The Red Cross).**

**Find out more at [www.davidenever.com](http://www.davidenever.com)**



Above: David performing with students from St Joseph's Primary in Lockhart.

Below: David in the recording studio and the cover of his debut album.



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# NASA to receive a Wiradjuri Education

An 11 year old Wagga student is heading over to NASA in the hopes of sharing his indigenous culture and connection to the stars with some of the world’s leading astronauts.

**Xavier Williams-Byers, along with five other students from Holy Trinity Primary School, is making the trip to the Johnson Space Camp in Alabama after achieving high scores on his 2019 NAPLAN tests.**

His mother, Jasmine Williams, says Xavier is a proud Wiradjuri kid who loves his footy and is looking forward to seeing him explore his culture’s history and relationship with the stars. “Being Aboriginal, he’s actually quite excited to go over and share come of our stories in the sky that we’ve got – ancient stories in the sky about some of our things in the stars and galaxies as well”. Jasmine says that the school has been very active in teaching students about the indigenous

connection to the land and the stars and is hoping her son is able to share that with some of the world’s leading scientists and astronauts. While she’s very proud of her son’s achievements Jasmine does admit to being shocked when they received the invitation. “It was a big surprise for us when we got the call at the end of last year that he was asked to come along and be invited to go and attend the space program in the USA”. Xavier will be accompanied on the trip by his classmates, but Jasmine will be keeping her feet firmly on the ground, sending her mother instead. The trip will involve an intensive program at the space

school followed by an excursion to Disneyland and Universal Studios leaving the school and their parents glowing with pride. The school has been given a grant from the Federal Government to help get the students and their chaperones over to the USA in September but they're still short of about \$30,000 and are calling for donations.



Nadia Galinec, Jeffrey Breed, Celia Van Ingen, Felicity Bacon, Joshua Annetts and Xavier Williams-Byers are the senior students selected to attend Space Camp in Alabama, USA.

Centenary Year  
St. Jacinta Marto (d.1920)

**Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes**

13 Days

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# Featured projects in February

- Help for a two-year formation course for 10 catechists and their families at the Mobokoli training centre
- A roof for a new church in Boaco
- Help for the training of 27 seminarians in the diocese of Rio Branco, in the Amazonas region
- A car for the Dominican Sisters in Baranovichi

## Democratic Republic of the Congo Help for a two-year formation course for 10 catechists and their families at the Mobokoli training centre

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as in almost every African country, catechists play a vital role in passing on the faith. In the diocese of Lolo, in the north of the country, the life of the Church would practically grind to a halt, were it not for the catechists living and working alongside the ordinary faithful in the villages and encouraging them to gather together for prayer and study of their faith. For many of these parishes cover vast areas, with numerous villages, often very difficult of access. The handful of priests available have to cover long distances on foot, sometimes wading through waist-high streams, in order to reach the people in the villages. Hence it is impossible to them to visit the villages as often as they would need to in order to instruct and guide the faithful. But the lay catechists are always on hand and present in the villages.

In the diocese of Lolo there is a catechetical centre, where the lay catechists can gain a solid training for this precious service which they perform, and also regularly update and refresh their knowledge. The basic training for these catechists lasts two years. Since they generally already have a family, their wife and children come with them. So the diocese also provides basic accommodation for the whole family. While the fathers are studying, their children also attend school, the diocese covering the cost

and providing teaching materials and school uniforms as well. And at the same time their wives also follow a range of courses, for example in needlework, domestic science, reading and writing and also basic courses in Bible studies and morality.

The aim is to provide the future catechists with both a theoretical and a practical training in pastoral studies and proclaiming the Catholic faith. For Bishop Jean Bertin Nadonye Ndongo the training of his catechists is a project dear to his heart and he is quite sure that their improved formation has given a "new impetus" to the diocese and been a "source of inspiration" to them all. But the need for well-trained catechists is still acute, he says, and this is why he has asked our help for the training of 10 more catechists and their families. We have promised him \$21,000.

### India

#### Success Story: a new church in Majerburi Village, Assam

The Catholic faithful in Majerburi Village, in the west of the Indian state of Assam, are delighted with their new church. At last the whole numerous congregation has room to sit inside the church together. Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors ACN was able to contribute \$100,000 AUD towards the cost. The dedication ceremony was a great and joyful feast, and the people are continuing to pray for all those kind souls whose contributions have made it possible for this long-cherished dream to be finally fulfilled.

In 1983 the Capuchin Fathers opened the first mission station in Majerburi



Formation of 10 catechist families in formation from 10 parishes at the Catechetical Centre "Mobokoli", Diocese of Lolo, Democratic Republic of the Congo.  
Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

Village and set up a primary school there. In 2012 the parish of Saint Francis was formally established here. Up to that time there was only a very small chapel, simply too small to accommodate the growing number of Catholic faithful. As a result, on Sundays and all the major feast days, around a hundred people were forced to attend Holy Mass standing outside the church. The children from the more remote and outlying villages, who cannot attend the village school unless they can find space in the parish boarding house, were likewise unable to get to Holy Mass on Sundays. And the pupils and teachers from the new college, which was established by a congregation of religious sisters in 2016, also wanted to be able to attend Sunday Mass.

The people are strong in their faith and play an active part in the life of

the parish, but are far too poor ever to have been able to find the money to build a new and bigger church. They belong overwhelmingly to a variety of indigenous tribal groups, and struggle to make a living gathering firewood in the forest and growing vegetables to sell at market. Even at the cost of great sacrifice, they would never have been able to achieve this goal by themselves – which is why their parish priest, Father Kuriakose Kattoopara turned with confidence to ACN for help. On behalf of all the people, he now sends us a heartfelt 'thank you' and promises their continuing prayers for all have helped.

### Nicaragua

#### A roof for a new church in Boaco

After Haiti, Nicaragua is the poorest country in Latin America. So not surprisingly, the Church needs help in

*continued on page 15...*



Construction of a Parish Church at Matia Majerburi. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need



Construction of a Parish Church at Matia Majerburi. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.



continued from page 14...

many places in order to be able to fulfil her mission. In the year 2012, on the outskirts of the town of Boaco, a new parish was established, named after the great Pope Saint John Paul II. Over two thirds of the parish covers a rural area, with 14 outstations, and roughly 70% of the local population of some 20,000 people are Catholics.

It is a very lively parish, and even weekday Mass attendance is around 50 people. On Sundays there are three Masses, with around 80 people attending each one. There are also numerous pastoral activities, for children, young people and adults, and the number of faithful is growing dynamically, not least owing to the general population increase in the town of Boaco.

At present a new church is being built in the parish in order to be able to accommodate the growing number of Catholic faithful. The parish priest, Father Miguel Angulo Rivas, is one of the most experienced and longest serving priests in the diocese of Granada. He volunteered to take over this parish, along with this difficult and demanding new construction project, because he wanted to take on the challenge of such a major undertaking before his retirement. He is widely regarded as a model for the other priests and for the Catholic faithful in the diocese.

The project is now well advanced, but help is now needed for the roof and the electrical wiring. So Father Miguel has turned to ACN for help, so that the new church can be finished as quickly as possible. We were only too happy to contribute \$21,000 AUD.

**Brazil**

**Help for the training of 27 seminarians in the diocese of Rio Branco, in the Amazonas region**

Currently there are 27 young men from the diocese of Rio Branco in western Brazil training to serve God and their fellow men in the Catholic priesthood. The life that awaits them as priests will be a far from easy one, since their diocese lies to a large extent in the Brazilian rainforest and covers

an enormous area of over 40,000 square miles (104,000 km²). The distances are great, and many places can only be reached via the rivers.

Undoubtedly, their vocation is also in part a fruit of the decades of tireless commitment by the Italian missionary Paolino Baldassarri, who even at the age of almost 90 was still travelling long journeys into the wilderness on his simple boat in order to visit the Catholic riverside communities. Since he couldn't swim, he always wore a life vest and a motorcycle helmet. He was also a doctor, and continued to practise even at an advanced age, treating and helping innumerable patients.

When he first arrived in the region, almost half a century ago, he immediately fell victim to malaria, in the first week of his stay. But somehow, miraculously, he survived and soon afterwards began to visit the jungle settlements in a simple canoe. Because of the shortage of priests in the region, many families had drifted away from the Catholic faith. Father Paolino won them back. He died in 2016, widely regarded as a saint.

Today the people's faith is again in danger, because the 40 priests struggling to minister to the 450,000 or so Catholic faithful in this vast and inaccessible region can only rarely visit some of the remotest villages and settlements. Meanwhile, the sects are spreading rapidly, seemingly well funded, wasting little time on training their preachers, and promising miracle healings to all the people.

In this light, the 27 future priests are a great ray of light and hope for the Church in the diocese of Rio Branco.

ACN is supporting the diocese for their formation, with a total of \$16,800 AUD this year.

**Belarus**

**A car for the Dominican Sisters in Baranovichi**

Back in 1992, almost immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union, three Dominican sisters from Poland came to Belarus and began their apostolate in the town of Baranovichi. Evidently, their example was a powerful and attractive one, for by



Car for the sisters Dominican nuns in the parish Pod. Sv. Kryzha in Baranovichi. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.

now the order has a fine number of local vocations, with no fewer than 18 sisters coming from Belarus itself. And more young women are waiting to join the order. Today the Dominican sisters are working in four different locations within Belarus.

Within the Catholic parish in Baranovichi, today a city of 170,000 people, the sisters perform a number of different duties, as sacristans and parish clerks, working with children and young people and caring for the sick and elderly. Around a hundred children and young people attend the catechism classes, and the sisters also prepare adults for reception of the Sacraments. At the same time they help to ferry the frail and elderly to church or bring them Holy Communion in their homes, comforting them and supporting them in many different ways. At Christmas time they also organise gifts and presents, with parcels of clothes, food and medical items for those in need.

The three sisters in Baranovichi currently have just one 10-year-old car at their disposal, which is becoming unreliable and costing more and more for repairs. And yet they have urgent need of a reliable vehicle, for in addition to their ordinary pastoral duties they also have to travel to the diocesan Centre in Pinsk for retreats and ongoing formation sessions, a distance of some 180 km (112 miles), and also to the Dominican formation

house in Minsk (190 km) and the other Dominican houses within Belarus, a distance of up to 300 km in some cases.

The sisters cannot afford a new vehicle from their own resources, so they have turned to ACN for help. It would be helpful for them to have a vehicle with a larger boot, since they often have many things to transport – like the Christmas parcels for example. So we have promised to help them with a contribution of \$16,130 AUD towards the cost of a new vehicle. The sisters want to thank all our benefactors in advance and they already enfold you in their prayers!

**Important note:** The projects above are just a small sample of the project requests Aid to the Church in Need receives. Therefore when making a donation we recommend you specify your gift to "projects most in need" that way your donation will be allocated to a project that desperately needs funding.

We greatly appreciate when you specify your donation in such a way. However if you would like your donation directed to a specific project area or country, you can leave a comment in the online donation form. To avoid overfunding of individual projects, if a project has been fully funded your donation will be directed towards a similar project in that region.

If you have the means and would like to "adopt a specific project" please call 1800 101 201 during business hours (AEST) and we can match you with a project that you can fully or partially fund.



Installation of the roof and electrical system, San Juan Pablo II church at Boaco: Celebration of the feast of the patron Saint John Paul II. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.



Bishop Jorge Solórzano Pérez, San Juan Pablo II church at Boaco. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.



# Diamond Jubilee Celebration 2020

Like a diamond being cut to bring out its inner beauty, the nineteen Sisters of Saint Joseph gathered from across Australia and New Zealand on 13 January at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney.

**They gathered to celebrate sixty years of religious profession, brought with them both joy and pain: concern for those suffering the terrible effects of bushfires, a sense of loss of dear companions who have died and gratitude and delight in seeing old friends again.**

While the bushfires prevented them from taking long trips out of Sydney, they all found ways to experience concrete examples of the theme they had chosen for their Mass: Building on foundational dreams to reach into the new.

Their special Jubilee Mass was a particularly joyful occasion where the whole-hearted participation of everyone present almost lifted the chapel roof. The presider, Emeritus Bishop Pat Power from Canberra, highlighted the importance of personal relationships as they step into new situations. As the sisters renewed their vows they attested once again to the power of love totally given, giving of their all in union with Jesus to whom they cling as the branches to the vine.

In their closing ritual on the evening before the sisters all left for home, they paused to give thanks once again and to pray in the words of Benedict XVI:

Help us look “with great hope to the future; let us encourage one another on our journey; let us work together to give our world a more humane and communal face; and let us feel a common responsibility towards present and future generations, especially in the task of training them to be people of hope and builders of peace.”

The sisters are aware that:  
• Like a new-born child, the next phase of their lives holds God’s gift.



Back Row left to right: Sr Margaret O'Neill, Sr Coral-Ann Flemming, Sr Catherine Woodcock, Sr Annette Lickley, Sr Therese Quinn, Sr Mary Cresp, Sr Catherine Thom, Sr Patricia George

Middle Row left to right: Sr Genevieve Secker, Sr Colleen Clear, Sr Gemma Wheatley, Sr Maria Dunell, Sr Connie Cummings, Sr Mary Baker and Sr Monica Cavanagh, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart

Front Row left to right: Sr Joan Hamilton, Carita Higgins, Sr Therese Wilson, Sr Colette Forde, Sr Jean Dunkin

- They bring “what we have” – with Jesus, it is enough to ‘tell the love of God.’
- In these, their mature years, they bring to God’s service the ripe fruit of wisdom and humility.
- Building on foundational dreams, they reach into the new.

“ With great hope to the future; let us encourage one another on our journey; let us work together to give our world a more humane and communal face; and let us feel a common responsibility towards present and future generations, especially in the task of training them to be people of hope and builders of peace. ”



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Sisters of Saint Joseph  
of the Sacred Heart



# Peter McPhee receives Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

St Francis de Sales Regional College's Counsellor, Peter McPhee, received the honour at this years Australia Day awards.

*Together* published an article in November last year on Peter McPhee and his incredible contribution over 40 years to his community, Catholic education and St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton.

We are so pleased to inform you that in this years Australia Day Honours Peter was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to youth and to the community.

The following achievements were listed:

**St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton**

- Youth Counsellor, since 1993.
- Teacher, 1977-1980, 1986-1987 and 1991-1992.

- Assistant Principal, 1983-1985.
  - Leeton Shire Council.
  - Member, Leeton Multicultural Group.
  - Member, Friends of Luro Timor Leste.
- Other**
- Volunteer, Palms Australia, current.
  - Co-Founder, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 1992.
  - Volunteer Teacher, Chanel College, Papua New Guinea, 1981-1982, 1988-1990.
  - Ecumenical Monitor for Justice and Peace, 1994 Election, South Africa.
  - Volunteer, Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR), 2000-2004.
- A huge congratulations for such a major achievement.**



*Peter receiving his award last year for his contribution to the St Francis de Sales Regional College's community with Seb Spina (Principal), Peter McPhee, James Hopper (Boarding House Co-Ordinator) and Brenda King (Ex-Principal)*

## State Religious Education Teachers meet for Mass

On Wednesday 29th January Catechists from around the Diocese enjoyed faith, fellowship and great food.

**35 State Religious Education (SRE) Teachers, lay & religious, from across the Diocese first gathered together at St Mels Narrandera for a beautiful Mass.** At the special Mass Rev Bradley Rafter shared with the catechists the importance of SRE and the long lasting benefits on the children taught.

Then the Catechists enjoyed a delicious roast buffet lunch at the Narrandera Exies and enjoyed meeting fellow teachers, many for the first time.

Wagga Diocese Safeguarding Officer Damian Reeves addressed the group at the lunch and many a story was shared by the Catechists.

The Mass and lunch was a

fantastic experience for all. It will be held again in February 2021 at Wagga Wagga. A big thank you to current and retired teachers for their time and generosity in teaching.

If you are contemplating teaching or have a spare hour a week to help teach, please don't be afraid to have a go. Please call Wagga Diocese Catechist Coordinator Trevor Dal Broi on 0407 537 994 or email [catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au). Full support and training is available.

**There a number of parishes needing help with sharing the Good News in the State Schools. I'm sure there is one near you!**

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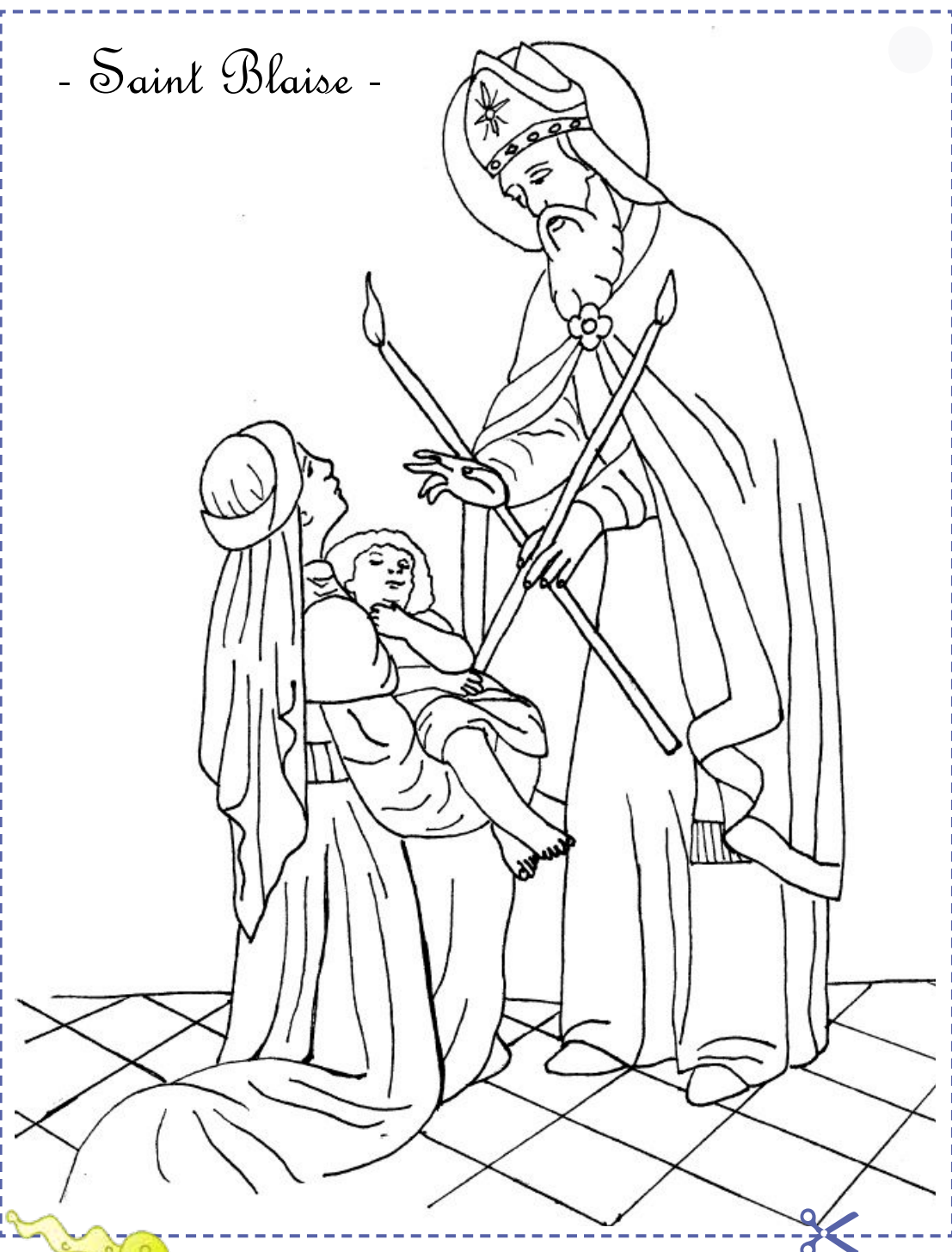
## SAINTS FUN FACTS by John Sheppard

Raised as a Christian in a rich family, he became a bishop. In a vision, God appeared to him and told him to flee. To avoid persecution, he lived in the hills with sick animals and cared for them.

He was later captured and while imprisoned, cured a boy choking on a fish bone.



He was ordered to be killed for refusing to renounce his faith and love of God.



# 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).

**Whats happening:**

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

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.



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

Together Editor  
PO Box 473  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

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



## FEBRUARY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

# Word Search

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

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



- St. Blaise
- St. Ansgar
- St. Agatha
- St. Paul Miki and Companions
- St. Jerome Emiliani
- St. Josephine Bakhita
- St. Scholastica
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- St. Cyril
- St. Methodius
- St. Peter Damian
- St. Polycarp
- Presentation of the Lord



# 300th meeting for St Michael's Cathedral Junior Legion

St Michael's Cathedral Junior Legion 'Our Lady Star of the Sea' Praesidium had their 300th meeting on Wednesday, 5th February.

**This turned into a double celebration due to member, Sydney Wang's, 12th Birthday Party!**

Our Praesidium has 18 members and would welcome more families to join us. We meet every Wednesday during school term at 3:45pm at St Michael's Parish Centre. The main 'work' we

help the parish with is singing with the Cecilian Choir at 5:30pm Sunday Mass and serving for Adoration and Benediction on Friday evenings at St Michael's Cathedral. Our Spiritual Director is Fr Reece Beltrame. **Please contact Caronne Vella for more information on 0413 801 616.**



Above: Some of the St Michael's Cathedral Junior Legion  
Back row: Stephanie Vella, Viktoria Kahuligan, Rosemary Vella, Kayla Heffernan, Augustine Greenrod, Amie Heffernan, Sydney Wang, Chloe Heffernan, Mailian Wang, Caronne Vella, Rose Greenrod, Fr Reece  
Front row: Elizabeth Vella, Olivia Greenrod, Hailie McLenahan (obscured), Maximilian Greenrod, Peyton McLenahan.

Left: Birthday boy Sydney Wang

## Holy Spirit Parish Lavington

50<sup>th</sup>

Friday 21st February to  
Sunday 23rd February

### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

#### Friday 21st February

- 9:30am Opening Mass in Holy Spirit Church
- 10:30am Morning Tea
- 11:00am "Open Day" in Holy Spirit School
- 5:00pm Holy Hour of Prayer in the Church
- 7:00pm Wine & Cheese Night in the Hall

#### Saturday 22nd February

- 9:00am Morning Mass
- 3:00pm Activities for Children: Scavenger Hunt  
Time Capsule Recovery  
Tree Planting in memory of Fr. O'Connell
- 7:00 pm Formal Dinner in the Hall (booking required)

#### Sunday 23rd February

- 10:00 am Solemn Mass: Procession from School to Church
- 12:00 pm BBQ Lunch and Departure



**All past students or parishioners are most welcome to attend the three days of activities.**



# PARENTING CHILDREN WITH ADHD

**This 3 day course developed specifically for parents/carers managing children with ADHD.**

## Topics in the course include:

- What is ADHD?
- How does ADHD affect family life?
- Using rewards & consequences
- Managing difficult behaviour
- Creating better routines & relationships
- Working with schools
- Building self-esteem
- Family problem-solving



- Family Counselling Services
- School Wellbeing Program
- Personal Helpers and Mentors Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Family Education Services
- Complex Case Services
- Natural Fertility Awareness
- Settlement Grants Program
- Recovery Approaches to Dementia
- Pre Marriage Education
- Partners in Recovery
- Clinical Clergy Assessments

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**The course is suitable for parents carers, grandparents and community members.**

**Recommended for parents of primary/early high school aged children, but all are welcome.**

The goal of this course is to inform and empower parents to work together with their child to cope with the many difficulties of ADHD by passing on practical, workable strategies that will make a difference in the lives of all family members.

An environment conducive to the engagement of parents through non-judgment, empathy and acceptance is a priority. Plenty of time will be allowed to discuss the home practice exercises to encourage parents to support each other in putting these ideas into practice and celebrate their successes.

An important goal of this course is to foster solidarity and support amongst the participants whereby they share and discuss their parenting experiences. This in turn can lead to lasting friendships, which offer parents the hope of ongoing support on their parenting journey.

**Where:** Centacare Office 201 Tarcutta Street Wagga

**When:** Wednesday 18th, 25th March and 1st April 2020

**Day session:** 10.30am - 12.00pm

**Evening session:** 6:00pm - 8:00pm

**Fees:** \$30 standard \$15 concession

**Facilitator:** Maree M

### Bookings Essential

For further information or to register your interest please contact Centacare South West NSW on 1300 619 379 or email [info@centacareswnsw.org.au](mailto:info@centacareswnsw.org.au)



### Centacare South West NSW

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# 100th anniversary of the death of Saint Jacinta

This year many girls are considering "Jacinta" as their 'Confirmation saint' name! A girl, who loves to dance, as Jacinta did, asked me: "How did she die?"

by Father Stojanovic

At the end of WWI in 1918, there was an exceptionally bad pandemic known as 'the Spanish Flu'. Within two years it had infected millions of people. It was more dangerous to the young than to the old. It reached Fatima, Portugal where Jacinta and Francisco Marto both caught the illness. They had an apparition of Our Lady at the time, who said that Francisco would soon be taken to Heaven, while Jacinta had a choice – to go straight to Heaven or to stay on earth for a time to suffer for the conversion of sinners. She chose the latter option. Mary told Jacinta that she would end up in a hospital, where she would suffer a great deal for the salvation of souls, and that she would die alone.

After Jacinta fell sick with influenza, she ended up in a local hospital for two months. Then she returned home, but her condition worsened as she developed tuberculosis. In January 1920, she was sent to the sick ward at an Orphanage in Lisbon. Beforehand, Jacinta said to her thirteen-year-old cousin, Lucia, that her task was to bring about a worldwide devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

There was a chapel at the orphanage, where Jacinta could participate in Mass and receive Communion. In less than a month she was seriously weak and taken to a Lisbon hospital. Apart from the deadly infection she had inflammation of some ribs. She was in great pain, and her wounds exuded an odor.

Two ribs were removed without full anaesthetic because of her weakness. Though she suffered so much, she never complained when her dressing was changed. She offered up all her suffering for the conversion of sinners.

She had a vision in which Our Lady told Jacinta that times were approaching when



Jacinta Marco who died alone at age 10. The 20th February 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of her death.

'many couples would live together without the Sacrament of Marriage', and 'many people would end up in hell because of the sin of impurity'. Mary said to her: there were 'certain fashions that offended God'.

On February 20, 1920, aged ten, Jacinta died alone, as Our Lady had foretold. **When Jacinta's body was transferred from a wooden coffin to a zinc one, witnesses were astonished that there was a beautiful fragrance, like flowers.**

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# St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton

What fun we had at Junior Joey's on 10th February! Meeting new friends and creating treasures to take home.



**Congratulations to Mrs Maria Maybon.**  
At the recent Deanery Mass Mrs Maybon was acknowledged for 20 years service to Catholic education. We are so blessed to have you with us Mrs Maybon.

# Holy Spirit School, Lavington

On 7th February Holy Spirit celebrated their Beginning of Year Liturgy. Yr 6 Student Leaders for 2020 were commissioned and their first Spirit Ticket rewards were drawn. A wonderful way to end a great first week of school.



# Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Year 6 Leadership camp at Holy Trinity Primary is currently underway at Borambola. The students look like they're having a great time.



# St Joseph's Primary, Finley

Our wonderful community came along to celebrate Year 6 students being farewelled by their families and staff. We love them and wish them well for what lays ahead for them all!





# St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



Left: A busy day in the sandpit!  
Right: St Michael's had a very special visitor to school recently - Dolly the puppy! Dolly had a busy morning playing with everyone, then got very sleepy! The students in Stage 1 used their visit with Dolly as a writing stimulus. Thanks to the Bradley family for bringing Dolly to visit.



# St Joseph's Primary, Wagga Wagga



Congratulations to all the students for a successful swimming carnival at the Junee pool. We witnessed many acts of great sportsmanship, bravery and persistence. A huge thank you to all the teachers, volunteers and parents who made everything run so smoothly. Well done to our age champions and our winning house Micheal.



# Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga

**CLASS OF 2020**  
What a beautiful start for our kindergarten students! Welcome children and your family members. Exciting times lay ahead for you all - friendships, learning and fun. Welcome to BIG School.



# St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

Bluearth Sports began this week! What a fantastic effort from all of the students.



# Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga Wagga

Sacred Heart Primary School in Wagga infants began their tennis program recently. They had so much fun!





# Australian Catholic Youth Festival pilgrims told: 'Rebuild my Church'

Thousands of young Australian Catholics were challenged to "go out and rebuild" God's Church on the opening day of the 2019 Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

**The opening session of the Festival, which drew 5500 young people from across Australia, featured a Welcome to Country, high-tempo music, inspirational speakers and moments of prayer.**

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, the host of the Festival as the Archbishop of Perth, welcomed pilgrims and encouraged them to bring every part of themselves to the gathering.

"You are welcome here with your questions, with your hopes, with your dreams. You are welcome here with your doubts and with your fears. You are welcome here with your hesitations and you're welcome here with all your enthusiasms," Archbishop Costelloe said.

"God is real. Christ is alive. The Church of which you are a part is yearning to help you and to hear you, to teach you and to learn from you, to challenge you and to be challenged by you."

Archbishop Costelloe's opening address drew upon the exhortation that St Francis of Assisi received 800 years ago and a similar encouragement from Pope Francis in more recent times.

He combined God's request to St Francis' – "Go and rebuild my Church, which is falling into ruin" – with Pope Francis' comments at World Youth Day 2016 in Poland.

Archbishop Costelloe challenged young people: "Get up off your couches, go out and help rebuild my Church. Help it to set out on new and uncharted pathways. Help stop the Church, my Church, from falling into ruin."

Fr Rob Galea, a priest of the Sandhurst Diocese and a renowned singer-songwriter, used the Festival's opening

session to invite delegates to be open to the voice of God in their lives.

"I pray that throughout this time, as we gather here as a family, as we gather here as your people, that you give us the grace to hear you speak," Fr Galea said.

"Lord, we don't want to walk out of this place the same way we walked in. We know that when you speak, our lives, our hearts are changed forever. So Lord, we give you the permission these next few days to speak to our hearts, to speak into our lives.

"Lord, we give you the permission to mess up our plans. We want you, Jesus. We want your guidance, Holy Spirit. You can take the world, you can take everything. Give us you. Come, Holy Spirit."

In the evening plenary session on day one, pilgrims heard humorous and faith-filled insights from Missionary of God's Love Sisters Therese Mills and Judy Bowe, who recently appeared on television show The Amazing Race.

Sr Judy said when someone suggested the idea to go on the show, they thought it could be from God, but they needed to – in the theme of ACYF and the Plenary Council – listen to the Holy Spirit.

"When it's God, anything can happen. It was so 'God' because it was so positive. It was like the whole Church has this big collective laugh, all together," she explained.

Sr Therese said they were given the opportunity to bring the Gospel message to people's lounge rooms through actions like praying at the demilitarised zone on the border of North and South Korea.

And that allowed them to speak with their fellow contestants and crew – and the audience – about their own vocation



Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, the host of the Festival as the Archbishop of Perth

and how God can work in people's lives.

"If you know that you're listening to the Holy Spirit, you can do anything with great courage that it will go well," Sr Judy said.

Sebastian Duhau and Holly Roberts, who have each represented young Australian Catholics at the Vatican, told their peers that they should take up Pope Francis' challenge to be "protagonists of change" and "the now of God".

They explained that the Plenary Council 2020 allows people of all ages in Australia to be both of those things.

Delegates closed the first day by participating in the meditative prayer form that originated from the Taizé community in France, followed by a musical performance from Gen Bryant.

Other highlights on the opening day included:

- The first two "Cruisin' with Columba" conversations – chats between Bishop Delegate for Youth Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE and a group of young people;
- The first Bishops X-Change sessions, in which bishops from across the country engage with young people on important issues facing the Church and society;
- Dutch priest and author Fr Michel

**God is real. Christ is alive. The Church of which you are a part is yearning to help you and to hear you, to teach you and to learn from you, to challenge you and to be challenged by you.**

Remery asking the question: "Is there social media in heaven?";

- Catechetical sessions on prayer, including participation in Sunday Mass;
- An exploration of how young Catholics can continue to advocate for action on climate change.

**For more information about the Festival, including speaker and performer profiles, go to [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au)**

*Below left: Father Rob Galea*

*Below middle: The crowd enjoying themselves*

*Below right: Archbishop Fisher*

*Photos from Iceberg Media and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.*





# Generosity of the Youth

When an Aid to the Church in Need staff member recently processed a donation and read the message attached to the donation they were touched enough by the young benefactor’s thoughtfulness and selflessness to share the donor's story with the whole office.

by Laura Cain

**The benefactor was Sarah an 11-year-old from Wagga Wagga, NSW, and like most young girls to celebrate the special occasion of turning eleven, Sarah had invited her friends to a birthday party.**

However, for this birthday in lieu of receiving presents, Sarah asked her friends to make a financial contribution to a project being sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need. The project Sarah chose to support was the reconstruction of a Church building in Iraq that had been destroyed by ISIS terrorists. Sarah with the assistance of her friends raised over \$300 for this project, her mother Marianne transferring the donation to ACN Australia on Sarah’s behalf.

Sarah and her family got to know the work of Aid to the Church in Need through the school Sarah attends, Mary MacKillop College. The school is blessed to have Dominican Sisters teaching religion. Sr Mary Catherine and Sr Mary Dominica are some of the sisters who teach at the school and Sarah explained that they have also created an Aid to the Church in Need poor box for the children to donate to. Sarah had watched some of the Gifts of

Faith campaign videos that highlight the important projects that need funding.

When I asked Sarah why she chose to support this project (rebuilding a church building) and not some of the more popular projects such as emergency assistance or humanitarian assistance for Christian refugees, Sarah said she could not imagine if her parish church was destroyed due to war, terrorism or violence. For Sarah and her family their church is very special space, Sarah’s brother has participated in altar server training and Sarah sings in the choir so the family is actively involved in their local parish community and the building and community have created many happy family memories and a sense of belonging.

In Iraq many of the Christian refugees who are now returning home are having to not only rebuild their damaged homes but to rebuild their churches and church buildings. This is such an important part of healing for the community and another sign that life is getting back to normal. You cannot underestimate the power of having a place, a building, a church and church hall to come together to pray, worship,

“ For her 11th birthday, in lieu of receiving presents, Sarah asked her friends to make a financial contribution to a project being sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need.”

reflect, gather, celebrate and receive the sacraments. These buildings will help the community back on the road to normality.

Sarah had watched the videos at home with her mother Marianne. Out of the six projects videos she chose the reconstruction of the Church and a Church building in Iraq helping Fr Thabet rebuild a church building where the community can gather for weddings, wakes, funerals, baptisms and other special occasions.

Sarah gave the invitees to her party a Gift of Faith card and envelope which let them know how they had also contributed.

“Never see a need without doing something about it” was Mary MacKillop’s well known saying and



Sarah pictured proudly holding her ACN Gift of Faith card under the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

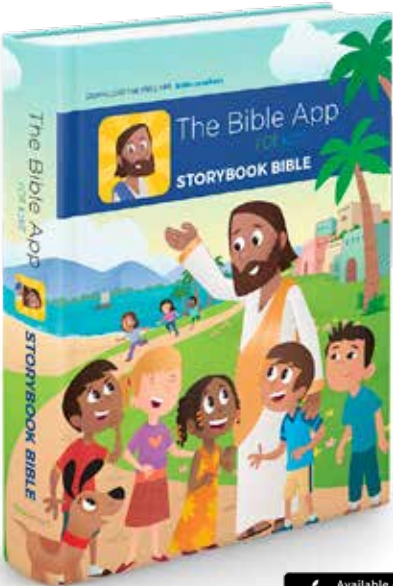
motto. It is clear that Sarah has been taught well by her school and her family, and that the spirit of our first Australian Saint is moving amongst the youth. **If you would like to join Sarah in helping to construct a Church building in Iraq you can do so by visiting [www.aidtochurch.org/giftsoffait](http://www.aidtochurch.org/giftsoffait)**



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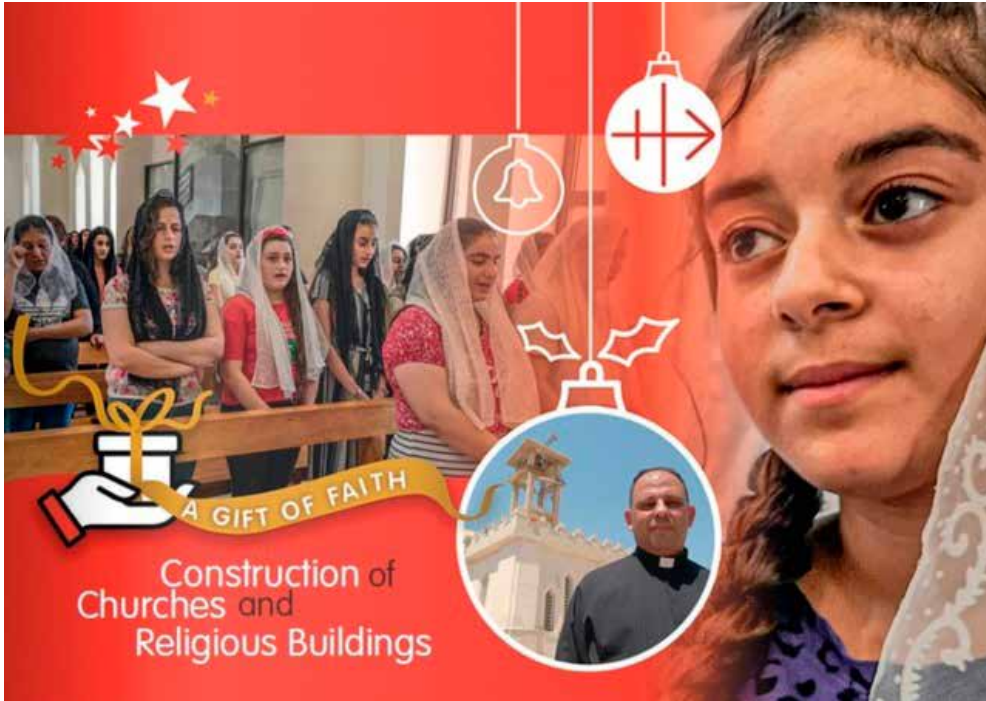


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## Caritas Kitchen

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You are warmly invited to a Caritas Kitchen hosted by Our Lady of Fatima Parish, South Wagga Wagga.

A Caritas Kitchen is a reminder that what you do in your kitchen can, and does, have an impact on what others can bring to theirs.

Please join us at our Caritas Kitchen event and help us do something to end poverty.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March**  
Following the 5:00pm Parish Mass at  
**Our Lady of Fatima Church, Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga**

Refreshments provided.

**Online donations** accepted at:  
<https://fundraise.caritas.org.au/mcalroykitchen>

*We would love to see you there*

# St Patrick's School Griffith appoints Daniel Tuohey and Michael Morrell as School Principals

The sound of St Patrick's school bell heralded the beginning of a new era this week, when Daniel Tuohey and Michael Morrell took up the reins as the school's principals.

*by Kenji Sato - Journalist Area News*

**They've got big shoes to fill, with Sandra Campbell stepping down as school principal after working at St Pat's for 40 years.** However they won't be going at it alone; for the first time in the school's history they'll have two co-principals working together to keep the place running smoothly.

They both bring different strengths to the table: Mr Tuohey with his 14 years of leadership experience as a Coleambally school principal and Mr Morrell with his deep-rooted connections to the Griffith community.

"To build a staff with a base of local knowledge, particularly in Griffith, is invaluable," Mr Morrell said.

"We have a lot of family connections at St Pat's, which is really lovely."

Mr Morrell was a St Patrick's student back in his childhood, just like his mum, his uncle, and his grandparents before him.

This week his youngest daughter started Kindergarten at the school, meaning that all three of his children are currently enrolled as the fourth generation of St Pat's students.

The school has changed a lot at St Pat's over the course of four generations, and

Mr Morrell said there's been an especially huge paradigm shift in the last five years.

They've shifted towards a "Learning Collaborative" co-teaching model, where teachers work together to teach individually catered lessons to students in open learning spaces.

"The core understanding is that every teacher is responsible for every student in the school," Mr Morrell said.

"We're doing a number of programs and using a lot of new strategies, research, and data so the whole staff have an ownership and they all contribute to every child's development."

Mr Tuohey has worked in the education sector for decades, and he said his experience has taught him the value of building networks in the community.

Mr Tuohey, who is long-time friends with Sacred Heart Parish priest Andrew Grace, said he's especially keen to build closer connections with the church.

"Building a strong relationship with the parish priests and assistant priests is paramount," Mr Tuohey said.

Looking towards the future, the two of them are looking forward to implementing their new, flexible, custom-tailored approach to education and proving to teachers and parents alike that it's the best way forward.



Daniel Tuohey and Michael Morrell are stepping up as St Patrick's new principals. They both bring different strengths to the table, and they'll be working together to help the school run smoothly. Photo: Kenji Sato

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# Record-breaking student enrolments for Marian Catholic College and St Francis De Sales College

Catholic schools are seeing record-breaking numbers of students in their classrooms, with Marian Catholic College and St Francis De Sales Regional College taking in their biggest Year 7 cohorts to date in 2020.

by **Kenji Sato** - Journalist Area News

**Marian's new Year 7 class is 156 students strong, and principal Alan Le Brocque said the school has also seen a large influx of enrolments across all of the year groups, bringing the grand total to around 720.**

The school received so many applications in 2019 that Mr Le Brocque had to "look seriously" at putting a cap on enrolments, but so far all applicants have been accepted into the school. Mr Tuohey, who is long-time friends with Sacred Heart Parish priest Andrew Grace, said he's especially keen to build closer connections with the church. "Building a strong relationship with the parish priests and assistant priests is paramount," Mr Tuohey said.

Looking towards the future, the two of them are looking forward to implementing their new, flexible, custom-tailored approach to education and proving to teachers and parents

alike that it's the best way forward. To accommodate the spike in enrolments the school has employed several new teachers in 2020, resulting in the largest staff board in the school's history with 62 teachers and 35 support staff. The school has also put in two demountable classrooms, and towards the middle of the year they'll be rebuilding their Technology and Applied Sciences block in addition to building a new admin area and new classrooms. "Our school is looking forward to what lies ahead with the new building program and our largest number of students," Mr Le Brocque said. "It should be an exciting year." Meanwhile St Francis De Sales in Leeton has taken in 154 Year 7 students, which is the largest cohort principal Seb Spina has seen in all his 20 years at the school. "It's a significant increase on previous



Sarah Bertollo from Yenda Public, Elise Calabria from St Patrick's, Benjamin Sinclair from Beelbangera Public, and Johan Martinello from St Patrick's have started high school at Marian Catholic College. Photo: Kenji Sato

years," Mr Spina said. "Typically we get anywhere between 125 and 140 students." The school had to hire another two teachers and teacher support officers in order to meet the sudden spike in student enrolments. Mr Spina said a significant chunk of the enrolments came from Griffith and West Wyalong, with a large number of them being boarding students. When asked, the NSW Department of Education did not say whether Murrumbidgee Regional High School's

two sites saw a decline in student enrolments post-merger. However, a department spokesman said that Year 7 enrolments were higher in 2020 than in 2019, which was when the school first opened its gates as a merged super school. "The number of Year 7 students enrolling at Murrumbidgee Regional High School is up on 2019," the department spokesman said. "The Year 7 enrolment this week is 213 with indications of further Year 7 students enrolling in coming days."

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# Women Still Listening to the Spirit, 20 years later

Two decades since the publication of the document *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, the Australian bishops concede there is “unfinished business” in promoting women’s participation in the Church.

**Published in 1999, *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus* arose from a collaboration between the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the Australian Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes (now Catholic Religious Australia) and the Australian Catholic University.**

It employed a variety of research approaches. It also resulted in a Social Justice Sunday Statement – *Woman and Man: the Bishops Respond* – published in 2000.

To mark the 20th anniversary of *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus*, the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry and the Bishops Commission for Social Justice agreed to revisit the earlier document and assess what progress had been made.

The chairs of those commissions – Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen OFM Conv – wrote the foreword to the new publication, *Still Listening to the Spirit: Woman and Man 20 Years On*.

“A further 20 years down the track, women are still listening to the Spirit and seeking to engage the whole Church in a conversation about a more fulsome development of the participation of women in the Church, for the sake of us all and for the sake of the Reign of God,” the bishops wrote.

“There is unfinished business from the action commitments made by the bishops in 2000. There is also an opportunity to contribute to the communal discernment process of the Plenary Council 2020. This collection of essays engages creatively with both of these elements of the present moment.”

*Still Listening to the Spirit* was launched on November 28 at the Plenary Meeting of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The book provides a series of snapshots into the lives of Australian Catholic women in 2019. Some essays reference the findings of the 1995-99 research project or the subsequent Social Justice Statement for 2000.

Others provide a theological reflection on contemporary dimensions of women’s lives or issues of significance. Several essays emerged from the Triennial Colloquium hosted by the Council for Australian Catholic Women in Adelaide in February 2019.

“Every essay contributes to creating a range of opportunities in the Church for respectful listening and dialogue concerning the experiences, needs and aspirations of women,” wrote Andrea Dean, director of the Church’s Office for the Participation of Women and one of the book’s editors.

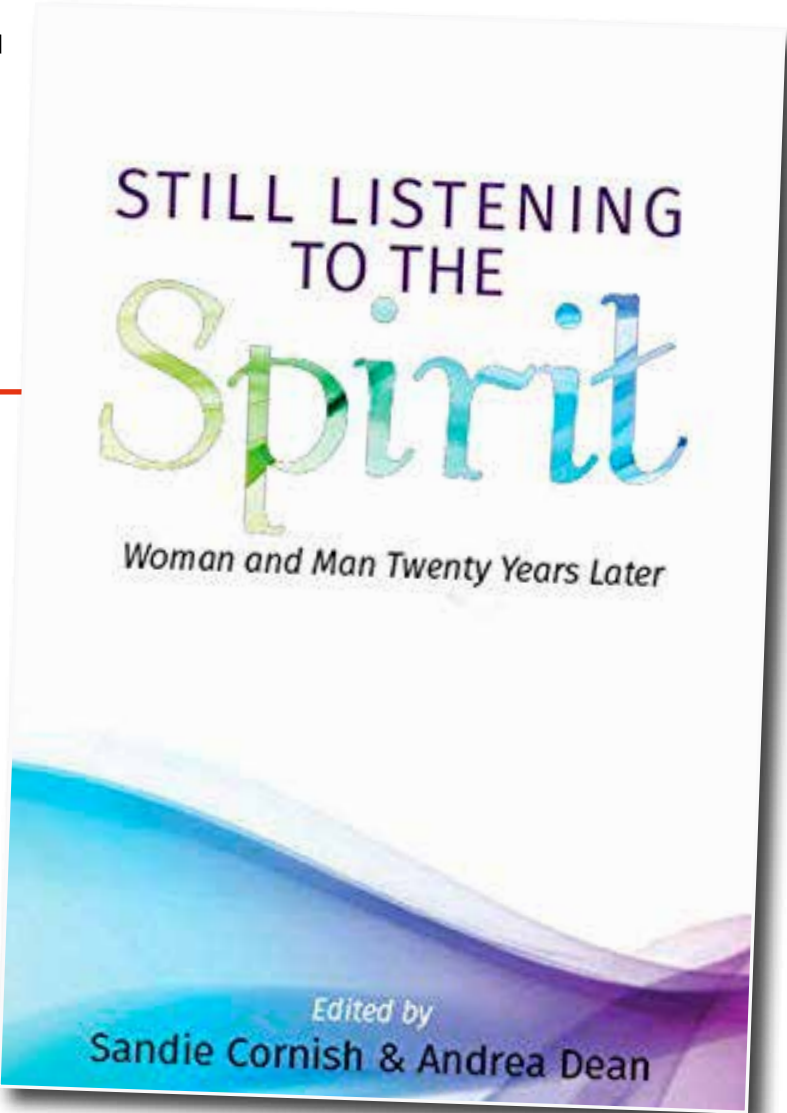
The book’s other editor, Sandie Cornish, said many of the major themes considered in *Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus* “remain live and contentious”.

“While there have been advances in some areas, little seems to have changed in others, and in some matters, things seem to have gone backwards,” she wrote.

“Despite disappointments and difficult experiences, the contributors to this collection are still listening to the Spirit and waiting for the opportunity to participate in a full and conscious way in the life of the Church for the sake of God’s Reign.”

One of our parishioners in the Wagga Wagga Diocese, Kelly Humphrey, a proud Gamilaroi woman, writes about *An Aboriginal Woman’s Perspective* in Part One of the book. Kelly speaks of the courage of Aboriginal women sharing their challenges and suggestions on moving forward.

*Still Listening to the Spirit* can be purchased from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference’s website and on a number of digital publishing platforms.



Launching the new book *Still Listening to the Spirit*, from left, Bishop Vincent Long, book editors Andrea Dean and Sandie Cornish, and Archbishop Christopher Prowse

# Catholic schools welcome Federal Government doubling drought funding

A total of \$8.2 million will be allocated to Catholic schools across Queensland (\$3.9 million), New South Wales (\$2.8 million), Victoria (\$810,000) and South Australia (\$660,000).

**This is on top of drought relief funding for Catholic schools announced by the Federal Government in November last year.**

Executive Director of National Catholic Education Jacinta Collins thanked Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan

for the announcement of much needed money.

“The Federal Government recognises the hardship faced by our drought-affected communities and the flow-on effects for schools,” Jacinta said.

“It is so important that young people

whose families are facing difficult times can continue their schooling and that schools can support students and families in these situations.

“Many of our communities have been experiencing drought for some years and schools have been doing all they can to support the wellbeing of students with counselling and other forms of support.”

Dr Lee-Anne Perry, Executive Director, Queensland Catholic Education Commission, said: “Catholic schools have been supporting drought affected families, in some cases for a number of

years. This announcement means they can continue to do that.

“This funding will go directly to fee relief and means Catholic schools can continue to offer the highest levels of support to all families impacted by the drought.”

Catholic Schools NSW Acting Chief Executive Officer Danielle Cronin said: “This additional funding will help families by ensuring they do not have to worry about where their child will go to school during the worst drought on record.”



# Women's Life Centre

## We are no longer closing!

**Dear Supporters,**

It was wonderful to hear that many of you were disappointed that the WLC would be closing and that you were hopeful that there would be some opportunity to still offer pregnancy support in some capacity in Albury.

I have the good news that we have decided to incorporate Women's Life Centre into the current Esencia shop. This means the shop will function as a space for both pregnancy counselling and cafe. Our WLC services will be available on Monday, Thursday afternoon/evening and Friday. The cafe will open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The signage outside will change to reflect this and we hope to reopen the Women's Life Centre in early February.

This change will reduce the costs of our overheads, use the one shop space more effectively and reduce the burden on our current volunteers. We hope that by saving in this area we can focus on better advertising/marketing and use of social media to reach those who are in need of our service.

We are sorry for the inconvenience that our original decision may have caused you by closing off your donations, but we are now hoping that you will resume them! All our details are the same.

Hume Bank

Name: Women's Life Centre Inc

BSB: 640 000

Account number: 111 245 065

Please feel free to get in touch on the number below if you have any further questions regarding our changes.

**Peta Evans** - Coordinator - Women's Life Centre

P 02 6040 7910 24hr Helpline 0438 407 914

[www.womenslifecentrealbury.org.au](http://www.womenslifecentrealbury.org.au)



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# National Conference

# 2020

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**Family Friendly**  
The conference is designed to cater for whole families with conference talks for adults and catechetical talks and activities for teens and children of all ages.

We are pleased to announce that **Archbishop Julian Porteous** (Archbishop of Hobart) will be present as conference chaplain for the entire weekend. Archbishop Porteous was formerly auxiliary Bishop of Sydney and chief exorcist.

The conference will feature many speakers and presenters from across Australia including: Sisters of the Immaculata, The Culture Project, Fr John Rizzo, Dr Gerard O'Shea, Monica Doumit and many others.

## Registration

All conference booking is to be done online:  
**[www.trybooking.com/BHPPT](http://www.trybooking.com/BHPPT)**  
Registrations Close Monday 13 March 2020

**Download the online brochure for full conference details or for more info contact...**

	<b>Melbourne</b> Marc Florio 0412 252 077
	<b>Sydney</b> Mary Clare Meney 0435 496 624
	<b>Wagga</b> Mark & Jenny Mannering 0419 411 161
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# Mass times across our Diocese

## Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

## Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

## Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

## Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

**Holy Trinity Church**  
Bardia Street Ashmont  
Monday-Saturday - 7:00am  
Friday - 10:15am  
Sunday - 9:00am and 5:30pm  
**Loreto Home of Compassion**  
Sunday - 10:30am  
Monday - 5:45pm  
Tuesday - 10:30am  
Thursday - Eucharistic Adoration - 5:15pm  
Thursday - 5:45pm  
**Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church**  
Benedict Avenue San Isidore  
Vigil Saturday - 6:00pm  
Wednesday - Eucharistic Adoration - 5:15pm  
Wednesday - 5:45pm

**St Michael’s Church**  
Linton Street Collingullie  
2nd Sunday - 9:30am (Christmas Day & Easter Sunday)  
**Confessions**  
Sacrament of Penance  
Saturdays - 11:00am-12:00noon  
Prior to weekend Masses or by request

## Albury

**St Patrick’s**  
515 Smollett St, Albury  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
Saturday - 9:30am  
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm  
Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am, and 5:30pm  
Latin Mass - Sunday 12 noon  
**Weekday Mass Times**  
Monday to Friday - 7:00am  
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am  
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel  
First Friday - 5:30pm  
**Rosary before Mass**  
Saturday - 9.10am and 4.30pm  
Sunday - 7.40am and 9.40am

## Albury - North Albury

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

## Albury - Lavington

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

## Albury - Thurgoona

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

## Berrigan

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

## Coolamon

**St Michael’s**  
Sunday - 9.00am  
**Confessions**  
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm  
**Masses**  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 7.30am

Thursday - 10.15am  
Saturday - 9.00am  
**Marrar**  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
**Confessions**  
1st Saturday - 5.30pm  
**Allawah Village**  
First Thursday of each month.  
Mass at 9.15am

## Corowa

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

## Culcairn

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

## Darlington Point

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

## Finley

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

## Ganmain

**St. Brendan’s Ganmain**  
**Weekend Mass Times**  
6:00pm (Saturday Vigil); 10:00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday to Friday:  
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)  
March-November 5:30pm  
Sat.: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).  
**Confessions**  
30 min. before every Mass each day & 5:00pm-6:00pm Sat.  
**St. Patrick’s Matong**  
Sunday - 8:00am  
**Confessions** 30 min before Sunday Mass

## Griffith

**Sacred Heart**  
Warrambool Street, Griffith  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Saturday - 8.00am  
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm

**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm  
**Confessions**  
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm  
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm  
**Marian Catholic College Chapel**  
185 Wakaden Street Griffith  
Sunday - 9.00am

## Holbrook

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

## Howlong

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

## Jerilderie

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

## Junee

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

## Khancoban

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

## Leeton

**St Joseph’s Leeton**  
Wade Avenue, Leeton  
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm  
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)  
**St Patrick’s Yanco**  
Sunday - 8:00am  
Tuesday - 9:00am  
**Weekday Masses in Leeton**  
Monday - 9:00am  
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am  
Wednesday - 9:00am

Thursday - 9:30am (Assumption Villa)  
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm  
**Sacrament of Penance**  
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm  
Saturday - 5:30-5:50pm  
**Eucharistic Adoration**  
St Joseph’s Church Leeton  
Friday - 4:30pm

## Lockhart

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

## Mulwala

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

## Narrandera

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

## Tarcutta

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

## The Rock

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

## Tocumwal

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

*continued on page 31...*



Tumbarumba

**All Saints'**  
40 Murray Street, Tumbarumba  
Saturday 9.15am  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Sunday - 9.00am  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - Friday - 5.30pm  
**Confessions**  
Friday 4.30pm - 5.15pm  
Saturday - 8.00am - 9.00am  
And 30 mins before weekend Holy Masses  
**Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Tooma**  
4th Sunday - 7.30am  
**Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Friday - 4.30pm & Saturday - 8.00am

Urana

**St Fiacre's Church**  
5 End St, Urana  
**Weekend Masses**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am  
2nd & 4th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Thursday - 12:30pm  
**Confessions** Up to 5 mins before Mass.  
**Oaklands**  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 10:00am

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

**Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii**  
17 Edon Street, Yoogali  
Sunday - 9:30am  
**St Anthony's - Hanwood**  
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm  
Sunday - 8.00am  
**St Therese's - Yenda**  
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Tuesday - 5:30pm - Yoogali  
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood  
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda  
Friday - 9:30am - Yoogali  
**Confessions**  
Yenda - Thursday, before Mass  
Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass  
Hanwood - Saturday - 4:30pm  
Or by arrangement with the priest.

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



Please pray for those priests whose anniversary of death occurs in January and February:

3 January 1933	Fr Patrick Hanrahan
10 January 1938	Fr James Hennebry
23 January 1937	Fr James Power O'Rourke
24 January 1882	Fr Cornelius Twomey
26 January 1941	Fr Martin Vaughan
27 January 1938	Fr Patrick Reidy
29 January 2014	Fr Ralph Fitzgerald
30 January 1946	Fr Patrick Gahan
4 February 1932	Fr John Campbell
4 February 1994	Fr James Michael Clark
12 February 1926	Fr Thomas L Ryan
14 February 1907	Mgr Michael Slattery
14 February 1982	Fr Thomas Aloysius Desmond
19 February 1948	Fr John Kenneth Charles Suna
24 February 1968	Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke

*These faithful servants, Lord, put their wholehearted trust in you - Grant that they may live in your love.*

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Family reflections for: February

9th February - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The widespread use of electricity in our society may make us less aware of the value and importance of light.** To re-engage with the power of the metaphor that Jesus offers, gather your family in a darkened room. Bring only one flashlight.

Sit together for a minute and consider what you are able to do and see in so little light. You might try opening the Bible to see whether you can read today's Gospel. Turn on the flashlight and experiment to see how one might use it to achieve the greatest amount of light. Then read today's Gospel by the light of the flashlight. Ask everyone to consider what it means to say that Christians are to be the light of the world. How might your family act in a way that is a light for others, a light that is worthy to put on a lamp stand? Choose one thing that your family will do this week to show that you are the light of the world. You might choose to participate in an activity that your parish sponsors, such as help with a food pantry. Pray together by singing "This Little Light of Mine."

Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 112:4-9  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

16th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos.** As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another.

Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: *God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.* Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

Sirach 15:15-20 Psalm 119:1-2,4-5, 17-18,33-34  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10 Matthew 5:17-37

23rd February - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Family life teaches us many things.** It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God's family. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God's family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"

Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to

do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself.

If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the Act of Love.

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18 Psalm 103: 1-4,8,10, 12-13  
1 Corinthians 3:16-23 Matthew 5:38-48

Wednesday 26th February - Ash Wednesday

**The season of Lent presents families with an opportunity to examine our family life and to re-commit ourselves to the Christian practices of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting.** Each of us is invited to do these things as individuals, but we can also do one or more actions as a family. Ash Wednesday is a good time for families to pray together and to plan the family's Lenten practices.

Gather as a family and read today's Gospel, Matthew 6:1-6,16-18. Remind yourselves that Jesus expected that his disciples would give alms, pray, and fast and that he gave instructions that when we do those things, they should not be done for show. Determine one way that your family will give alms during Lent to share what you have with people in need. Decide upon one way that your family will pray together during Lent and choose one thing that your family will give up during Lent as a reminder of your love for God. Agree to encourage one another in whatever Lenten promises each has made individually. Pray together that God will bless your family's Lenten promises by praying together today's psalm, Psalm 51, and/or praying the Lord's Prayer.

Joel 2:12-18 Psalm 51:3-6b,12-14,17  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18






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