Rev Wilfred Plunkett A true shepheral to the flock

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Archbishop's Voice

Archbishop Christopher Prowse - Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese

Pentecost **Encouragement**

The Bishops of Australia met recently and have written a "Word of **Encouragement" during this Covid-19**

The sending down of the Holy Spirit on the nascent Church filled them with joy and strengthened their faith. We all need an infilling of this joy and faith in our own tough times too.

The Bishops mention the tremendous solidarity people have demonstrated in the pandemic, particularly healthcare workers who have shown "an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice."

Churches are beginning to reopen to small numbers. "Our doors may be closed but our hearts are still open", the letter states. We notice "your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger for this."

In this month of May, devoted to Mary, the Bishops note: "At the heart of the community of disciples, even behind closed doors, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14)." Recently we entrusted Australia to Mary under the title of Our Lady Help of Christians, the patroness of

The Bishops observed that, "the experience of the shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors". While keen to reopen churches, we also want to keep some of the great lessons of these times regarding our missionary discipleship as an Archdiocese particularly with online pastoral services.

The Bishops are speaking with state and federal government about the reopening of churches. Many of you are keen and may wish to bring this to the attention of your local political leaders.

At least two crucial areas of our Catholic life have been strangely enhanced by the

pandemic.

First, there is the refreshed acknowledgement that families are crucial to Catholic life and the health of society. We have been spending more time at home and while this can be a challenge we have seen the priority of family life. St John Paul II liked to teach that society comes through the

Secondly, our greater reliance on electronic means to nourish our faith has led us to appreciate the national and international dimensions of Catholicism. On any day we can choose Mass with Pope Francis, Archbishop Christopher or our Parish Priest. It helps us to experience our universal Church more deeply.

I hope you will be able to read the bishops letter written with much pastoral love.

The Living Source

The great liturgical Solemnities of **Pentecost and the Most Holy Trinity** draw us into the heart of our shared Christian belief.

All Christian prayer begins by acknowledging God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke so often of his Father who he described as "Abba". He promised the Holy Spirit that was given at Pentecost.

It took the early Church several centuries to articulate our fundamental belief in one God existing in three persons. We must articulate our treasured beliefs but the Mysteries of our Faith are so deep they cannot be contained in theological statements.

Turning to stories can help us understand these ancient and precious faith Mysteries. I offer one possible story.

For some years I lived as a student in Rome not far from the Tiber River. Many times when I crossed the river I would look down and often said to myself, "If only this river could talk!" For well over 2,000 years there

have been urban settlements on the banks of the Tiber around what is now called Rome.

On one long weekend, a priest friend from Italy invited me to his home in the Tuscan

Soon after we arrived he took me to the source of the Tiber River. Here I could see the birthplace of this most famous of rivers. From rock formations there were two little fountains coming out from the earth. The gushing water was pristine clear and abundant. A nearby sign stated, "Here is born the river, sacred to the destiny of Rome".

In contrast to the polluted Tiber in Rome, the source of this river was a natural spring. One could drink from this water, the area was lush green forest.

It is a kind of symbol of the origins of our faith we celebrate in these high Liturgical solemnities.

Whatever may be said of our tepid and fractured response to the Christ event over 2000 years of Church history, we know these Easter Mysteries continue to be our living source of hope and healing. As we travel the river of our Trinitarian faith life between the first and the second comings of Christ, we know in conversion and repentance that it is the Holy Spirit who leads us. Let us keep this in mind with the forthcoming Plenary Council.

On these Solemnities we return once again to THE source of our faith, Jesus. "From his breast shall flow fountains of living water". (John 7/38)



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Prayer Intention for June - Pray with Pope Francis

The Way of the Heart

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

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



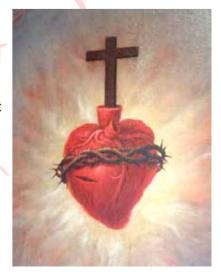
http://popesprayerusa.net/popes-intentions

I picked up a scrap of paper that was placed under the statue of the Sacred Heart in the church. Someone had written a one line prayer that was invested with a gem-like faith. It read: O Sacred Heart of Jesus, fill the hearts of the new First Communion children with your presence of love always. This is a prayer of wonder and mystery. It is in keeping with the prayer intention of this month that people, including children may "find their way in life. allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus."

The scrap of paper under the statue reminds us of the scraps of everyday experiences of grace that we fail to collect and maybe we delude ourselves into thinking that we are too sophisticated for the beauty and simplicity of prayer.

So often we come to God's altar with empty "heart-baskets" because we have neglected to collect the scraps of the ordinary, the everyday, the hum-drum, that etch for us all the traces of "the lovingkindness of the heart of our God" in the chaotic pattern of our hectic lives.

Let us strive to walk along the Way of the Heart on a daily basis and make our own the Father's loving gaze upon humanity, acting in all things with the Heart of Jesus Christ. Let us also go to the places where men and women are suffering injustice, to because we are too busy, too pre-occupied help heal and support the brokenhearted.



Requiescat in pace, Rev Wilfred Plunkett

9th October 1927 - 7th June 2020

Fr Wilfred 'Plunky' Plunkett passed away peacefully on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Sunday, 7th June 2020 at 92 years of age.

by Karene Eggleton

There has been an outpouring of grief throughout the Diocese for Fr Plunkett upon the news of his passing as well as a much deserved outpouring of admiration for a man lovingly described as "a true Shepherd to the flock".

Fr Plunkett was born on the 9th of October 1927 in Albury. His parents were Norman and Beryl Plunkett. He had one brother, Robert, and two sisters, Joan Nixon and Patricia McNamara. His father, Norman was one of 11 children.

Wilfred was educated at St Patrick's Primary School at Holbrook, and completed his studies at Xavier College, Kew, a suburb of Melbourne. He rowed with the 3rd crew on the Yarra River.

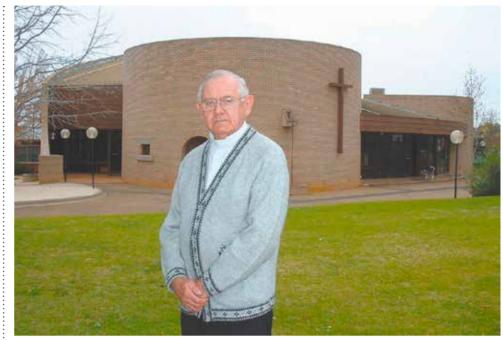
In 1946 Wilfred entered St Columba's Springwood to train for the priesthood. In 1949 he entered St Patrick's College, Manly, to study Theology. Wilfred was ordained a priest in 1955 in St Patrick's Church, Albury, by Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke. His first Mass was celebrated in Our Lady of Sorrow's Church at Holbrook. His first appointment was to Leeton Parish. In 1961 he was appointed as a curate to the Bishop's House at Wagga Wagga. He remained there for 5 years. Wilfred was then appointed to St Patrick's Parish Albury. He then took leave for nine months and did a world tour which included a Papal Audience at the Vatican.

On his return he was appointed as Administrator at Corowa for five years. He was then made parish priest of Darlington Point for another five years. In 1975 he made another world tour. This trip included a visit to the Woodward home where his mother's forebears lived at Kells in Ireland, and his father's forebears in Ballyjamesduff in County Cavan, also in Ireland. The highlight of this tour was the Canonisation to Sainthood of The Martyr Oliver Plunkett in 1975, who was the brother of Edward Plunkett, from whom Wilfred is a descendant. He took part in the canonization ceremony. On his return home Wilfred was appointed Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church at Kooringal, where he remained for 30 years.

Father Plunkett was influencial in creating the Sacred Heart Catholic Church at Kooringal, transforming



Former NSW Governor Marie Bashir conferred on Wilfred the OAM for his ecumenical services.



Fr Plunkett stands outside Sacred Heart Church, Kooringal of which he was instrumental in creating.

an old army hut into the parish centre that stands there now.

Apostolic Administrator-Delegate Reverend Kevin O'Reilly spoke fondly of Fr Plunkett.

"He built up the Kooringal parish and helped to construct the Kooringal church," Father O'Reilly said.

Father O'Reilly said Father Plunkett would be remembered for his "great care and concern for others."

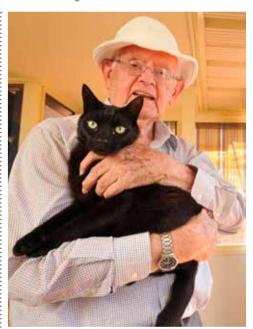
"I think he'll be remembered as a great pastor. His love towards not just his people but all people, he was friendly with everybody," he said.

Father Plunkett is credited with building Mater Dei Primary School in 1990 and paving the way for Mater Dei Catholic College in 2004.

On his 90th birthday, Father Plunkett recalled a conversation he had with the then Bishop William Brennan about the need to build another church at Lake Albert, now the location of Mater Dei Primary and Mater Dei Catholic College.

Bishop Brennan questioned the logic of building at a site, stating, 'there's nobody there,' however Father Plunkett persisted, and in 2017 said, 'well, look at at it now.'

At the age of 80 years Wilfred retired to Settlers Village in North Wagga. His good health allowed him to offer Mass in the Chapel for the residents and to take Holy Communion to the sick there. He was appointed Confessor to The St John Vianney Seminary. As a priest he had been chaplain to the St Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary and a member of the Minister's Fraternal. The NSW Governor Marie



Fr Plunkett was reunited with his much loved cat Sooty in 2015 after he had to give her up to family in order to move into Settlers Village. Sooty had walked 15klms to find him.

Bashir conferred on Wilfred the OAM for his ecumenical services.

Every parish in which he worked, Fr Plunkett knocked on every door in that area. It brought about interesting results. Some people had never met a priest before. In some cases it was a means of bringing Catholics back to the practice of The Faith.

The Funeral Mass for Fr Wilfred Plunkett will be held at 11:00am on Friday 19th June at Sacred Heart Church Kooringal. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the number of mourners in attendance will be limited. The Funeral Mass will be live-streamed via the Alan Harris McDonald website: www.alanharrismcdonald.com.au

May Fr Wilfred's soul and the souls of all The Faithful Departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Bishop's act of solidarity

Catholic Bishop Mark Seitz had no idea that his act of solidarity in El Paso, Texas, would be met with a phone call of gratitude from his boss, Pope Francis.

by Alisha Ebrahimji

With eyes closed, masks covering their faces, white roses in hand and handwritten signs that read "Black Lives Matter," Seitz and 12 other priests from the Diocese of El Paso knelt in silence for 8 minutes and 46 seconds on Monday.

They were praying in silence for George Floyd, a black man who died in the custody of Minneapolis police after an officer knelt on his neck for that same amount of time.

"Frankly, what I did and what I have said is only a very small way to take part in what so many are doing in their peaceful protests," Seitz said.

Two days after the clergy's prayer, Seitz had just finished celebrating Mass when he got a call on his cellphone from the pontiff himself.



Bishop Mark Seitz's act of kneeling in prayer for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to remember George Floyd prompted a call from Pope Francis this week.

In Spanish, Francis told Seitz how grateful he was for Seitz's response to Floyd's death.

"Through me, he's expressing his unity with everyone who is willing to step out and say this needs to change," Seitz said. "This should never happen again. Wherever there is a lack of respect for human beings, where there's a judgment based on the color of their skin, this has to be rooted out.

"Whether it's in law enforcement, in business, in government, in any aspect of our society, this has to change. And now we know very clearly that the Holy Father is making this his prayer."

During Pope Francis' weekly Angelus prayer at the Vatican on Wednesday, he addressed Floyd by name in a "relatively rare" move for the Pope, according to John Allen, CNN's senior Vatican analyst.

Francis called Floyd's death "tragic" and said he is praying for him and "all those others who have lost their lives as a result of the sin of racism."

Pope Francis ② @Pontifex We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form. At the same time, we have to recognize that violence is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost. Let us pray for reconciliation and peace. ○ 96.4K 7:00 PM - Jun 3, 2020 ○ 25.2K people are talking about this

NSW relaxes religious caps in latest easing of coronavirus restrictions

Authorities warn church leaders about the infection risks from communal singing after easing attendance restrictions.

published by SBS News

Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that from 1 June, up to 20 people can attend weddings, 50 at funerals and 50 at places of worship.

However strict social distancing guidelines would continue to apply.

"It is crucial that worshippers remember to follow health advice. This is particularly important for people with co-morbidities aged over 50 and people aged over 70," Ms Berejiklian said. The government had been wary about adjusting the restrictions on places of worship after observing COVID-19 outbreaks in churches and church choirs overseas.

But state religious leaders pushed for the relaxation after the government last week announced up to 50 people would be allowed to dine in restaurants, pubs and cafes from 1 June.

NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant outlined the risks requiring management.

"Places of worship will be asked to find

alternatives to practices that might spread the virus, like singing, sharing books and even passing around the collection plate," Dr Chant said on Friday.

"Communal singing and chanting should not occur because of the high risk of transmission."

Anthony Fisher, the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, on Friday said in a statement the Catholic church would abide by all government health regulations.

"The closure of our churches and indeed of all places of worship has been deeply distressing for many people of faith in our community," Archbishop Fisher said.

Hand sanitisers will be available at each entrance, churches will be thoroughly cleaned between services and designated ushers will record the contact details of each attendee.

"We realise that this is not the normality we enjoyed in 2019. We are grateful for the relief, joy and comfort that many parishioners will feel in meeting again in public Christian worship."



An empty church due to COVID-19 is seen during a mass on the eve of Anzac Day at St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, Friday, April 24, 2020. Source: AAP



Pandemic Peg Doll Swap

The Maker's Table is a creative women's ministry with workshops held in Sydney, Melbourne and more recently, Albury. It is a place where women gather to create, make, craft, pray, listen, share gifts, stories and know-how.

It is a place to encounter beauty and wonder, to build relationships and cultivate community. It is a place to encounter a divine spark.

For the last 18 months women of all ages have gathered at the Women's Life Centre and Café in Lavington. The centre has been established to support women who find themselves with a crisis pregnancy. During the recent time of isolation however, meeting has been impossible.

And so, the "Pandemic Peg Doll Swap" was established.

Over the past 6 weeks, women have collected their peg doll kit and begun to lovingly paint one image of a saint twelve times. Father Heffernan from Holy Spirit parish in Lavington came and blessed the large army of 288 peg

dolls and then they were packed up and collated into 24 sets awaiting collection from the participants.

While painting, friends spoke of how they grew in love and appreciation for the saint they were painting. Their love and appreciation for all the holy men and women that went before us grew. Many were stretched out of their comfort zone and would not consider themselves artists however we remind them that the first thing that God did in Genesis is 'create'. By painting, we are merely imitating Him. If we are imitating Him, we cannot help but be drawn into his

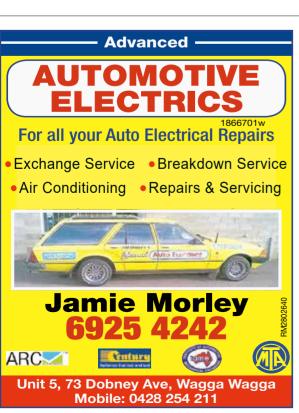
If you would like to know more about The Maker's Table please visit www. themakerstable.org or contact us at themakerstablealbury@gmail.com

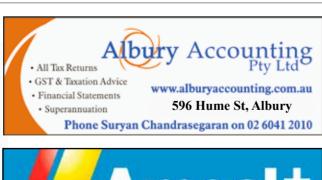




Speaking of all things creative, how gorgeous is this church created from lego by the Wray family children during lockdown.









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Family reflections for: June

7th June - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, Cycle A

Because of God's great love for us, he sent his Son, Jesus, to save the world. Jesus, in turn, sent the Holy Spirit so that our faith in God and his love would be strengthened. The nurturing experiences of family life also help us to understand and have faith in God's love.

Create a family poster together showing all the ways in which your family experiences God's great love. Use symbols, pictures, and words to show how you have seen God at work in your family life and in our history. Then read together today's Gospel, John 3:16-18. Pray together, thanking God for his gift of love. Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father or today's Psalm.

Exodus 34:4b-6,8-9 Daniel 3:52-56 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 John 3:16-18

14th June - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Cycle A

Our faith teaches us that when we gather to celebrate Mass, Jesus is present to us. The bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is what we mean by the word transubstantiation: Jesus makes himself present to all who receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

If there are children in your family who have already celebrated their First Holy Communion, invite them to share their memories of this special day. If there are family photos taken on this occasion, bring them out and share them together. Adults in the family may also share memories or photos that they have of their First Communion. Then read together today's Gospel, John 6:51–58. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he calls himself the "living bread."

Recall that every time we receive the Eucharist, Jesus keeps the promise he made in today's Gospel—those who eat his flesh and drink his blood will remain forever connected to him. Perhaps family members can share what it means for them to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Together thank God for this gift of Holy Communion. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14b-16a Psalm 147:12-15,19-20 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 John 6:51-58

21st June - Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A

It is not only individuals who need reassurance about God's love and protection. Communities need this reassurance as well, including the community of the family. Children rely on the confidence of their parents for this assurance. Parents can help the entire family's growth in trust and confidence in God by witnessing ways in which daily family needs are entrusted to God's care.

As the family gathers, distribute pieces of paper to each person. Tell them to write or draw ways in which they believe that God's help is needed for each person and for the family as a whole. Each slip of paper can then be collected in a basket.

Invite one member of the family to read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:26-33. Recall together how well God knows your family and thank God for this wonderful grace. Conclude by praying together for each of the needs identified on the slips of paper. After each need is read, pray together, "God, we trust you because you know us so well." Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father.

This practice might become a regular part of your family's prayer. Set the basket in a place of prayer and encourage family members to add other needs throughout the week.

Perhaps your family can pray for these things together during a family meal.

28th June - Thirteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle A

One can tell a lot about a family by the way they welcome others into their home. Despite parental efforts to elicit the best behavior from their children, family efforts to entertain guests are sometimes difficult. Practicing a spirit of Christian hospitality within the family can be an occasion to reflect upon the importance of this virtue. A family spirit of hospitality is a sign of faith.

When your family gathers, ask each person to consider the following questions about manners: What does it mean to be a good host? What does it mean to be a good guest? Invite each person to share their thoughts and experiences about being a guest or a host. When they have finished, read aloud today's Gospel, Matthew 10:37-42.

Ask family members to describe what Jesus says about hospitality extended to his disciples. (Those who receive Jesus' disciples also receive Jesus himself; hospitality to Jesus' disciples will be rewarded.) Then encourage family members to talk about what it means to be a good guest or a good host. You might also talk about ways in which your family's hospitality might be improved upon. Conclude in prayer together that your family grows to be one in which Christian hospitality is experienced by all. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16a Psalm 89:2-3,16-19 Romans 6:3-4,8-11 Matthew 10:37-42

Vinnies Lavington selling new re/CYCLE range from second-hand donations

Second-hand clothing donations that can't be sold at op-shops are now being recycled into a new range of homewares by Vinnies.

by Vivienne Jones

And the re/CYCLE range, which include throw blankets, beach towels, tea towels, rugs and cushions, are being sold at Vinnies Lavington, one of four shops across NSW.

The Vinnies range is made from 100 per cent recycled textiles including those items unable to be resold in their original condition.

Vinnies Lavingon area manager Guy Rowe said the range had been popular since the op-shop reopened two weeks ago.

"We were able to do a lot of things while being closed during the pandemic lockdown," he said.

"That included some painting and getting the shop ready for when we could reopen.

"And now being open again we have been really busy.

"We can probably sell just one in three clothing donations we get so it is great to see those donations being turned into other products.

"The draught stoppers have been selling as quickly as we can put them out."

St Vincent de Paul NSW commercial

enterprise, fundraising and communications executive director Yolanda Saiz said the organisation was passionate about "embracing sustainability".

"At Vinnies our core purpose is to help people experiencing poverty and disadvantage, but we're also passionate about helping the environment," she

"For two years now, Vinnies has been exporting some of the clothes it can't sell in its shops to partners who are now recycling textiles, including many of these donations, into these beautiful items

"We are so excited to be a market leader amongst charity op-shops to take this first step into fashion circularity.

"By purchasing the beautiful homewares from the re/CYCLE range, shoppers will be able to financially support our charity work while saving fabrics from landfill."

Ms Saiz said globally 11.7 million tonnes of textile waste ended up in landfill each year.

"The circular recycling model allows Vinnies shops to divert waste from landfill and reduce environmental



Trudy Walsh from Vinnies Lavington with the re/CYCLE range which is made from donated items that can't be sold and is now available at the op-shop.

Picture: MARK JESSER

impact by reselling second-hand clothing, and recycling fabrics when they are unable to be sold," she said.

The re/CYCLE range aims to target the "conscious consumer" as well as those looking to style their homes with "affordable yet environmentally friendly accessories".

The proceeds from re/CYCLE sales will support people experiencing poverty, homelessness and hardship, including the growing number of households financially struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic.







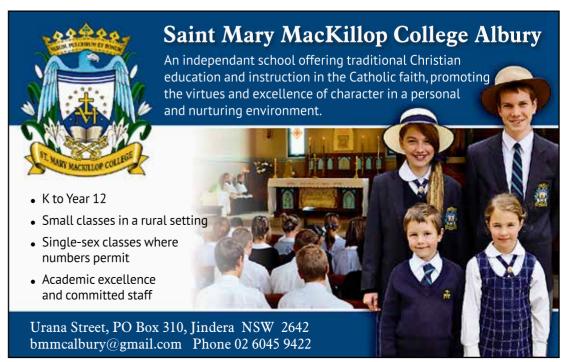
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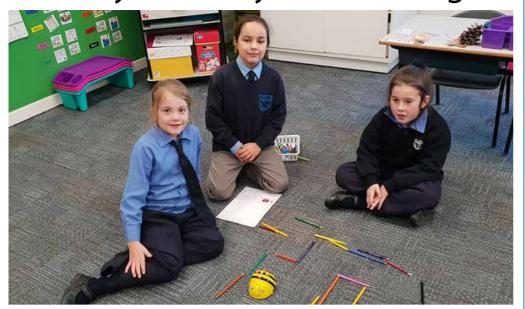
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8

St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



Science and Technology in Stage 1! The students had to work in teams to design and build a maze for a Beebot to travel through. The students were able to use any items in the classroom to create the maze. They needed to code the Beebot to make it move through the maze successfully, adjusting their designs and coding input where needed.



St Brendan's Primary, Ganmain





All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba



All Saints Primary had fun amongst the fallen leaves.



Xavier High School, Albury

Albury's Xavier High School students cooked up a feast recently for the Carevan Foundation to serve to needy people in the community.







