



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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MARCH 2019

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# The ‘now’ of God

Archbishop Christopher Prowse - Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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## 1. WORLD YOUTH DAY, PANAMA (22-27 JANUARY 2019)

At the concluding Mass of W.Y.D. Panama, Pope Francis spoke directly to over 700,000 youth from throughout the Catholic world. He mentioned that some described youth as the “future” of the Church. He disagreed. Our God is not simply the future God – he is the God of the NOW. Youth are the now of the Church, preached the Pope.

Their contribution does not need to wait until some nebulous future moment to ignite. It is a now contribution. Our own youth delegation from the Archdiocese resonated with this insight strongly. When we look at the contribution they are already making for example as Catholic school teachers and youth leaders, I heartily agree with this NOW focus of our youth.

If the wonderful youth whom I spent an intensive two weeks with as a fellow pilgrim at W.Y.D. are any indication, then our youth ministry is now in the hands of faith filled and Holy Spirit led leaders. Thank you, Lord Jesus!

## 2. PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA – STAGE 1

Stage one of our common journey in the Plenary Council is concluding (6 March 2019). This has been the stage of intensive listening and dialogue sessions.

I wish to thank sincerely the very many groups who have who have earnestly participated in this first stage and have now submitted their responses to the national office.

Soon the second stage will commence. This will be the follow up to the analysis given to the submissions of stage one. These will be professionally analysed to identify emerging themes and undergo a theological reflection.

Maybe it is still not too late to submit your group’s reflections. However, please

Hurry. Now is the time.

Let us pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit to imbue the entire process with love, unity and truth in these now moments.

## 3. LENT 2019

This year Lent begins a little later than last year. Ash Wednesday 2019, the beginning of the Lenten Season, is 6 March.

Our ancient tradition views Lent as our liturgical season of conversion and repentance as we Journey toward the Easter Mysteries of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. It is a NOW time to open ourselves up to the merciful embrace of our Loving Saviour, Jesus.

As always, I encourage all our parishes and communities to enter fulsomely into this important liturgical season. Gathering for scriptural prayer groups, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the devout reception of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession), Masses and devotional practises are to be emphasised. Equally important is our attentiveness to the poor and oppressed in our communities. Practical charity is an essential dimension

‘Equally important is our attentiveness to the poor and oppressed in our communities. Practical charity is an essential dimension of this penitential season.’

of this penitential season. The now of God as the call to charity “shouts out” in the needy and lonely. An important expression of this is Project Compassion. There we find Jesus in the here and now. Let us not forget also the importance of fasting as a real form of prayer.

I have every confidence that you will enter into Lent with zeal and trust in the Lord.

**Let us ask Mary, our Heavenly Mother, to guide us to her Crucified and Risen Son, Jesus, Our Lord and Redeemer.**



## Prayer Intention for March - Pray with Pope Francis

### Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

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



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

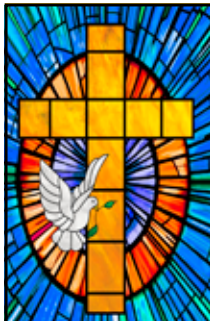
<http://popesprayerusa.net/popos-intentions/>

*In the Church, God gives the gift to the whole human family of the possibility of being close to Jesus Christ. The Church extends in time and space the mission of Jesus while he walked the earth for our salvation, by offering us the chance to hear his words of forgiveness, be anointed with the oil of his Spirit, and to receive his Body and Blood. By being drawn into the life of the Church, especially the Sacraments, we are enabled to feel close to Jesus, to know his loving presence and action in our lives.*

*Yet, many Christians with whom we share faith in Jesus live in societies in which they are not free to approach the nearness of God in the Church or in which they run great risk for doing so, even their very lives! It may be difficult to understand that*

*martyr Churches still exist today, not only in the Church's history, especially if we are accustomed to relative freedom in practicing our faith in our own lives. Yet, in many places in the world our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ suffer today and give themselves up to marginalization, loss, and even death for their faith in the risen Lord.*

*These communities have special need of our tender support and love. May our own efforts help these communities experience freely the nearness of the Lord in the Church; and until that moment comes through cultural change, may they feel the consoling nearness of God by knowing that we, their family in Christ, labor so that their rights, especially that of religious freedom, are respected.*



### 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.



# Physically attacked, stressed and depressed: Australia’s school principals speak out in survey

One in three Australian school principals was physically attacked and one in two experienced threats of violence at work, according to a new survey released on 27 February.

Originally published in the Catholic Voice

**In a worrying trend, almost half of school principals (45%) were threatened with violence in 2018, compared with 38% in 2011.** The survey also found that increasing threats and violence, aggravated by excessive working hours, are leading to serious levels of distress, burnout and depression among school leaders.

Now in its 8th year, *The Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing Survey*, has collected data from about 50% of Australia’s 10,000 principals from 2011 to 2018. Australia’s principals are overwhelmed by the volume of work; being threatened with violence; being physically attacked, having great difficulty sleeping; and experiencing high rates of depressive symptoms.

Associate Professor Philip Riley, from Australian Catholic University’s Institute of Positive Psychology and Education and the survey’s chief investigator, said, “Clearly, our nation builders are under attack. Consequently, fewer people are willing to step into the role. At a time when 70% of school leaders will reach retirement age within 2-3 years, we are ignoring a looming national crisis.”

**Causes of Stress**

The survey found the sheer quantity of work and the lack of time to focus on teaching and learning were the greatest sources of principals’ stress. Teacher shortages were also a frequent issue.

An increasing source of stress is managing the mental health issues of staff and of students.

**Work hours**

- The standard working week in Australia is an average of 38 hours.
- 53% of principals worked more than 56 hours per/wk, during term.
- Approximately. 24% of principals, or 1 in 4, worked more than 61-65 hours per/wk.
- During school holidays, approximately 40% of principals worked more than 25 hours per/wk.
- The survey found an overwhelming 99.7% of principals worked hours far beyond those recommended for positive mental and physical health.

**Violence**

- One in three principals was physically attacked in 2018.
- Violence jumped from 27% in 2011 to 37% in 2018.
- “Australia’s school leaders experience

a far higher rate of offensive behaviour at work than the general population,” Associate Professor Philip Riley said.

Female school leaders are most at risk of physical violence with 40% experiencing violence compared to 32% of male school leaders. The rates of physical violence show a concerning upwards trend in almost every part of Australia including: NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, and the ACT.

**Threats of violence**

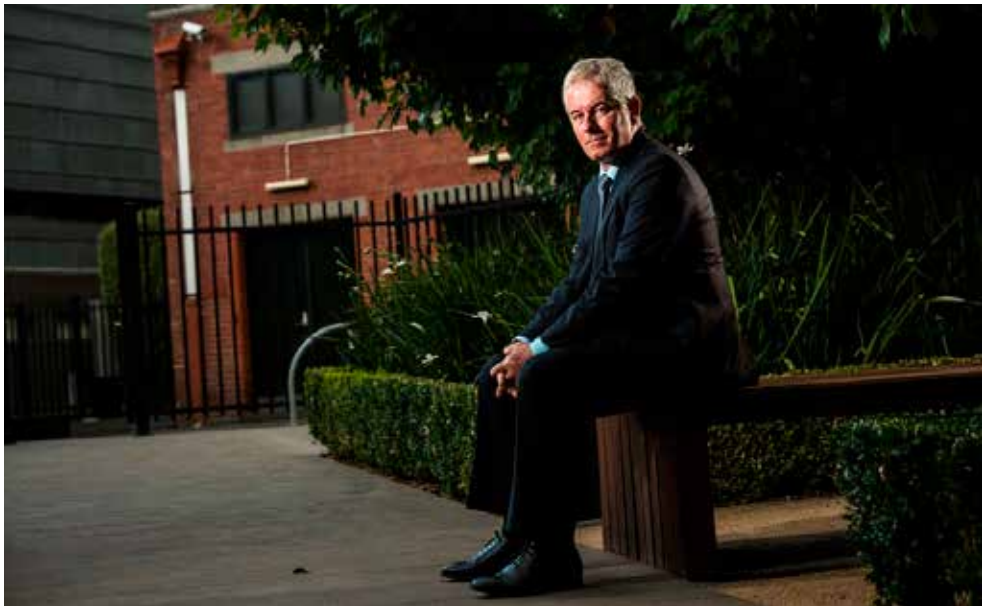
- The highest number of threats of violence is found in government primary schools at 49%.
- The lowest prevalence of threats is in P/K – 12 Independent schools at 12% (this is still 1.5 times the population rate).

Associate Professor Philip Riley said, “The steadily increasing levels of offensive behaviour in schools of all types is a disgrace and it needs to stop.”

**Health**

One in three school leaders was identified as so distressed that their physical and mental health were seriously at risk.

When compared to the general population, principals report 1.5 times higher job demands, 1.6 times higher



Associate Professor Philip Riley, from Australian Catholic University’s Institute of Positive Psychology and Education. Photo: Chris Hopkins.

levels of burnout, 1.7 times higher stress symptoms, 2.2 times more difficulty sleeping, 1.3 times negative physical symptoms and 1.3 times more depressive symptoms.

**Key recommendations**

“Australia should adopt a whole-of-government approach to education,” Associate Professor Philip Riley said. “This would mean the federal government, states and territories combine to oversee a single education budget. The funding agreement should be bipartisan and a transparent mechanism which is simple to understand.”

**Other recommendations include:**

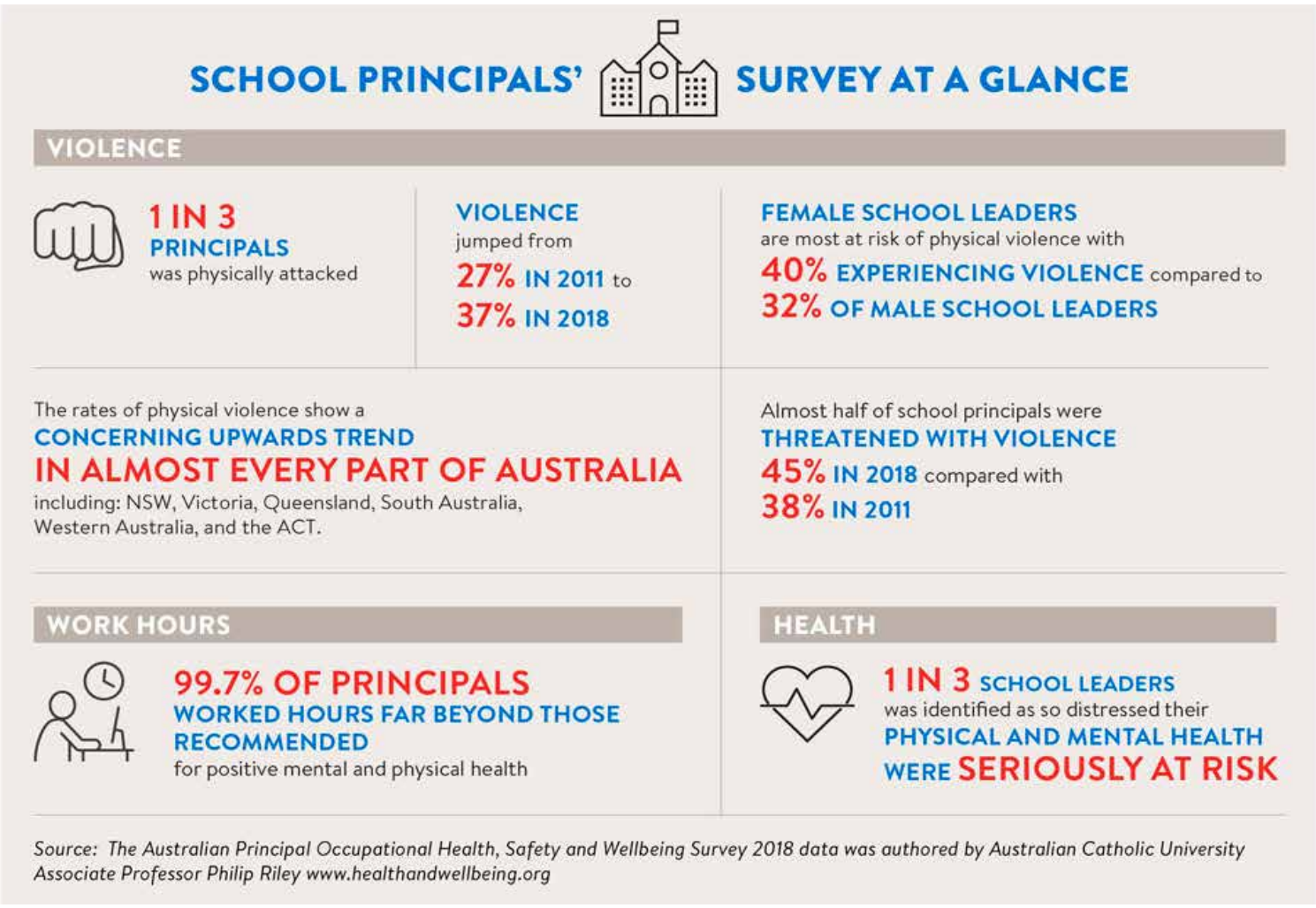
- Employers should reduce job demands or increase resources or do both.
- The community needs to immediately stop offensive and violent behaviour towards educators.
- Australia also needs to have adult

**“The steadily increasing levels of offensive behaviour in schools of all types is a disgrace and it needs to stop.”**

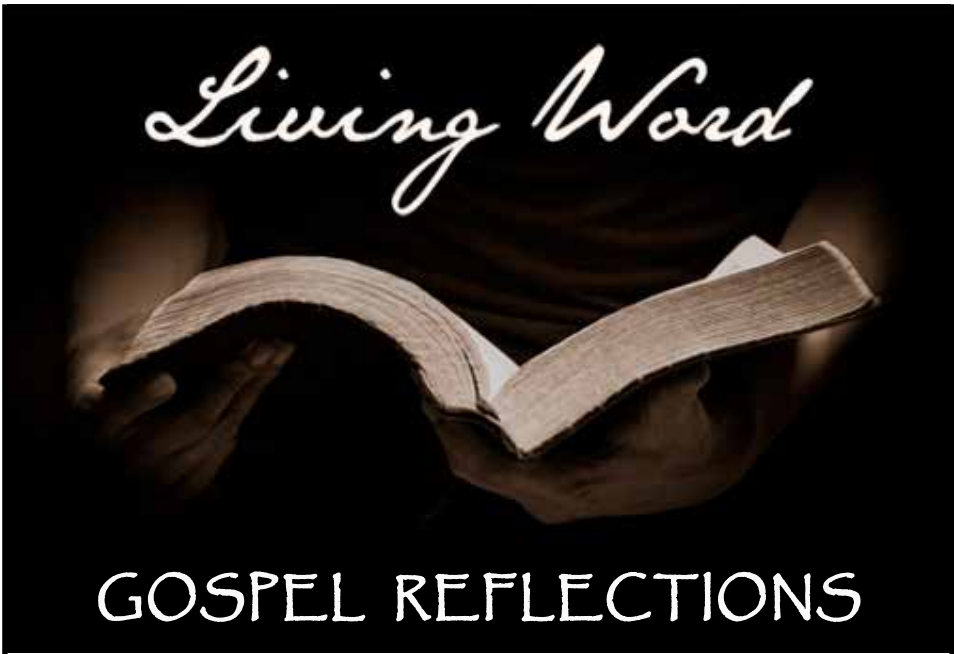
conversations about the root causes of this violent behaviour, which is occurring in all frontline professions and in the high rates of domestic violence.

- School leaders should not allow their passion for their school to dominate their life.

The full survey and its 15 detailed recommendations are available at <https://www.healthandwellbeing.org/en-AU/principal-reports>







GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

- Receive thyself -

*There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them (1 Cor. 12:4).*

God is the giver of all gifts, both of nature and of grace. St. Ignatius of Loyola – founder of the Jesuits – thought that the root of all sin was ingratitude. It is only his opinion, but worth consideration, for Adam and Eve wanted “to be like God” we are told. For some reason, they were not happy being human.

Gratitude is what makes people great. But to be grateful, we must first receive. We are offered three marvelous gifts: the gift of self, the gift of others and the gift of God.

Gift of Self

Thomas Merton wrote, “that the reason people don’t become saints is because they refuse to be themselves” (Seeds of Contemplation, 1955). We are called to be saints, but we are not called to be Mary of the Cross or St. Francis of Assisi. No, God “works in all sorts of ways in different people.” God wants “me” to be “me” and “you” to be “you.” God wants “me” to be Christ. He wants “you” to be Christ.

We have to receive our very selves – we have to receive exactly who we are and not try to be someone else. This is the task of parents, surely, but also educators.

The task of receiving oneself is a lifelong goal and journey, especially when we run up against difficulties, failings, and sufferings. We receive ourselves and we can give thanks.

Gift of Others

St. Gregory the Great observed, “that people have gifts that we don’t have, but if we love them, these gifts become ours.” If ever there was a theology of the body, this is it. It is not easy to live this theology of complementarity, living as we are in a culture of competition, jealousy, and envy, exploited by modern means of communication. But if we can, then things change. Our relationships and marriages change; our places of work change; our parishes change. Our world changes. We receive others and we give thanks.

Gift of God

Receiving God is not easy either, because we live in a frenetic and noisy culture, but the promise holds good:

*Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).*

All it takes is a few moments to become silent and still. If we are prepared to make this small sacrifice, then we shall come to know and love God.

Silence and stillness is the pre-eminent condition for receiving God in the beauty of creation, in the truth of his Word and in the love of the Eucharist. We receive God and we give thanks. Amen.



Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn



Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga



Pastoral message regarding Cardinal George Pell

Dear Friends in Christ,

I reach out to each one of you in Jesus, by way of this simple Pastoral Message.

The revelations regarding Cardinal Pell over these last days have deeply shocked and disturbed us. We find in our hearts so many emotions and confusions.

We hold deeply in our hearts all survivors of sex abuse and their families. We pledge to do all we can to stand alongside them in prayerful, transparent vigilance.

Given that Cardinal Pell’s conviction will now be subject to an appeal in court we best leave aside further comment on this matter.

Be assured of and comforted by my prayers and thoughts for you, my dear people, in this fragile time. Please find strength in your care for each other.

Together, let us turn as always to the Lord Jesus and our Mother Mary, during our Masses and our prayers to guard and guide us in this “vale of tears.”

Please pray also for our priests, deacons and seminarians. They who seek to serve you with great pastoral care are in need of their own care in these days.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn and Apostolic Administrator of Wagga Wagga Diocese



Statement from Archbishop Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

The news of Cardinal George Pell’s conviction on historical child sexual abuse charges has shocked many across Australia and around the world, including the Catholic Bishops of Australia.

The Bishops agree that everyone should be equal under the law, and we respect the Australian legal system. The same legal system that delivered the

verdict will consider the appeal that the Cardinal’s legal team has lodged. Our hope, at all times, is that through this process, justice will be served.

In the meantime, we pray for all those who have been abused and their loved ones, and we commit ourselves anew to doing everything possible to ensure that the Church is a safe place for all, especially the young and the vulnerable.

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# Sculptures at Erin Earth 2019

Sculptures@ErinEarth 2019 will be held over the weekend from Friday evening 29 March to Sunday 31 March 2019.

Both large and small sculptures will be displayed throughout the gardens and will be available for purchase.



Some works from Sculptures in ErinEarth Gardens 2016: Freedom Run (Scrap Metal Horse) by Andrew Whitehead (above left) and Kurrajong Pods, Raeleen Pfeiffer (above right), and Birdhouses by Tracy McCluskey (top right)

## SCULPTURES @ERINEARTH

Discover the large urban woodland garden that is ErinEarth, as it comes to life with Sculpture, music, activities and talks, and yummy food and treats

**WHAT:** A program of activities starting with tickets to the official opening party  
**Friday 29 March** + general entry over the weekend  
**Saturday + Sunday 30-31 March**

**TIME:** Saturday 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 10am - 3pm

**WHERE:** ErinEarth, 1 Kildare St, Wagga Wagga, NSW

**COST:** Adults \$5 entry, Children free. Morning Tea \$5  
Friday night opening party tickets \$50 per person

Kurrajong Pods by Raeleen Pfeiffer

**More information:**  
[WWW.ERINEARTH.ORG.AU/SCULPTURES](http://WWW.ERINEARTH.ORG.AU/SCULPTURES) OR 02 69 257 150

# The Culture Project Australia

The Culture Project Australia is a movement of young people set out to restore our culture. We encounter our own generation on healthy relationships and the dignity of every human being, inviting our culture to become fully alive.

THE CULTURE PROJECT  
thecultureproject.com.au

**Benedict Slee is 25 years old and a missionary with the Culture Project Australia, which is a movement of young people cultivating hope in our own generation through the experience of virtue and authentic love.** Missionaries talk to the youth in schools, universities, camps and conferences about the dignity of the human person, relationships, and the call to authentic love - with the aim of restoring our culture to one where the only proper response to another human being is to treat them with authentic love.

Full time missionaries commit to Daily Mass, Daily Holy Hour, regular confession and spiritual direction, ongoing personal formation and study (in addition to several weeks of training), as well as living in community and serving with the Culture Project team until the end of December.

In addition to speaking in schools, the Culture Project also run monthly Restore nights (Similar to Theology on tap), and fortnightly Culture CatchUps (which focus on helping to form young adults in virtue). There is also a weeklong Beach Outreach mission trip to Schoolies on the Gold Coast at the end of November each year, where missionaries and volunteers go out in pairs and have

conversations with people on the beach, and ask the question: “What is Love?”

The Culture Project Missionaries are only able to serve in this mission full-time because of the generosity and support of others. Supporting the missionaries who do the work, and to enable them to be fully alive (to eat, rest, play, pray, become saints, etc), is one of the best ways of supporting the mission of the Culture Project, as without missionaries there would be no mission to support.

**If you’d like to personally support Benedict in his year of mission, please contact him via email:**  
**[bslee@thecultureproject.org](mailto:bslee@thecultureproject.org)**

Meet the full Culture Project Australia Team for 2019: Frances Hopkins, Catherine Brennan, Katherine Turnbull, Laurence Klein, Peter O'Donnovan, Bridie Hall, Marie-Therese van Rensburg, Benedict Slee



# Give this Lent 100%:

Each week of Lent we will bring you a different story to show you how Project Compassion is making a difference. Last issue we brought you the story of Thandolwayo from Zimbabwe and this issue we will bring you three more stories from around the globe.

## Tati from Indonesia

Tati lives in the remote forest of West Kalimantan. She is a mother of three who was earning an income working in a local rubber plantation.

**Since taking part in eco-tourism training with Caritas Australia and its partners, Tati can now afford to send her children to school. With new hope and commitment Tati aspires to a future free from poverty for her family.**

Tati is a Dayak woman, living in a remote forest of West Kalimantan, Indonesia, with her husband and two of her three children. Her two youngest children go to

school nearby while her 19 year old son lives in a rented room close his school 60 kilometres away. The family pays for his living-away-from-home expenses, in addition to providing for school expenses. Tati’s Dayak culture is deeply linked to the rainforest and her family has relied on it for sustenance for generations. Over the last few years, communities which depend on the native forests



Tati in part of her community's preserved forest collecting rebung, a young bamboo vegetable used for cooking

have seen them shrink, along with vital habitats for endangered orangutans, rhinos and tigers. Caritas Australia, with its partners Caritas Indonesia – KARINA and the Diocesan Caritas are working with local communities to develop alternative sustainable livelihoods, by training them in ecotourism activities. Before Tati joined the Caritas program, she and her husband mainly earned their income from rubber tapping and raising chickens. Now, Tati has increased her family income ten times over by cooking for tourists and making souvenirs. Her community is also developing a strong financial base so that it can manage its own land. Around 600 people have directly benefitted from the program so far –

with hopes it can be expanded to other districts.   
 “I hope to continue living with fresh air, clear water,protected forest,and to be able to pay for my children’s education and that my grandchildren can still enjoy the forest.”



\$250

can provide mentoring and skill-building programs for a community of Dayak people like Tati's, giving income generating skills in ecotourism, enabling them to maintain important cultural links to their land and the forest.

Indonesia



Yordanus, Eco-tourism centre leader and community elder, demonstrates to visitors how to find and use engkerebang leaves, a traditional medicine used to stop bleeding in cuts and healing by first chewing the leaves then placing them on the cut and using other leaves as dressing

"Land is not a commodity, but rather a gift from God." - Pope Francis

## Peter from Solomon Islands

Peter is thrilled to now have clean water on tap at his boarding school. Long walks to unsafe water sources were tiring for Peter, who is living with a disability.

**With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter can fulfil his hope of focusing on his studies, providing him with brighter future.** Sixteen-year-old Peter goes to a boarding school in the Solomon Islands which has experienced water shortages for 60 years. Previously students would have to walk kilometres each day in search of clean water. This was

particularly challenging for Peter who is living with a disability. Peter’s mother left the family when he was little and has since passed away. His father decided to move from northern Malaita to Honiara, to better provide for his family. He arranged for Peter to stay with his aunt, then attend Aligegeo Secondary School. Groundwater sources at the school have dried up and rainfall is



Peter in class at Aligegeo Secondary School on Malaita Island, in the Solomon Islands



# PROJECT COMPASSION

unpredictable. Water in surrounding wells often made students sick or gave them rashes.

Caritas Australia, and partners Caritas Solomon Islands (CASI) and the Solomon Islands Government Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene division (RWASH), have teamed up with the school to tackle the problem.

CASI provided a 90 kilo-litre water tank, electric pump and technical advice, while the Malaita Provincial Government contributed labour. Staff and students took part in training, dug trenches and are helping with a water management plan.

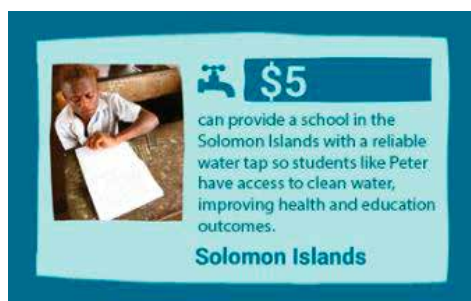
The school now has a safe, reliable water system, servicing around 1,000 people.

Peter hopes to focus on his education

and to help others in future by working for an aid and development agency himself.

However much more needs to be done to improve access to reliable water and sanitation in the Solomon Islands.

‘Now we can stay at school to wash and not interrupt our class time.’



Students use the tap connected to the new reliable water system installed by the school, with the help of Caritas Australia, and partners Caritas Solomon Islands (CASI) and the Solomon Islands Government Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene division (RWASH)

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." - St Teresa of Calcutta

## Michaela from Australia

Michaela is a 21-year-old trainee at Purple House, a dialysis center in the Central Desert for people suffering from kidney disease.

**With the support of Caritas partners, Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise, a connection to culture and a new outlook for the chronically ill.**

Twenty-one year-old Michaela is helping to build a social enterprise for people with chronic illnesses at The Purple House in Alice Springs. Featured in Project Compassion 2014, the First Australian-run Wellbeing Program, uses its profits to connect and care for dialysis patients who are far from home.

As a Purple House trainee, Michaela completed a Certificate IV in business

management. She was also recently promoted from administration trainee to permanent employee, working on The Wellbeing Program.

The young Alywarr woman cares for patients as they receive dialysis and helps them to feel at home and remain hopeful during treatment. Patients in turn pass on traditional knowledge to Michaela.

The program is run by the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation, with support from Caritas Australia.

First Australians are twice as likely to



Michaela next to the colourful exterior of the Purple Truck, which is fitted with two dialysis units. The truck allows patients in communities without dialysis units to return home for treatment, if only for a few weeks

experience chronic kidney disease, and four times more likely to die from it than other Australians.

With the help of staff like Michaela, the Aboriginal-controlled service gives patients the opportunity to stay connected with their culture. They do this through traditional healing practices and income-generating activities, such as making bush balms and soaps.

Profits are invested back into supporting patients receiving remote care and help to get people on dialysis back on country.

In addition to completing her studies, Michaela has obtained a driver's licence, is building her leadership skills running workshops solo.

Together will run two more stories from Bangladesh and Vietnam in the next issue.

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

‘Hope means having something to look forward to. I enjoy building relationships with the patients and learning from them. If we keep our culture alive we can feel strong.’



Dialysis patient Rosie paints with the company of Purple House employee Theresa and Michaela

"Hope requires that we spin a few dreams for ourselves that are possible, doable and desirable." - Joan Chittister OSB



# Thank you: And where to now?

As the time for submissions to the Plenary Council has closed, it is fitting that a word of thanks be given to all who have been involved in the process of the Plenary Council thus far.

by Fr Bernie Thomas

There have been many people involved throughout the diocese and so the church of the Wagga diocese, and the Australian church, says ‘thank you’ for your part in helping the church reflect on itself for now and for the future.

While not everybody has made a submission, many have been involved in the listening and dialogue process (on a formal or informal level) which has led to submissions being made.

As Diocesan Facilitator for the Plenary Council, I feel that particular thanks should be given to the Parish and School Facilitators who have ‘spread the word’.

The people that have been involved have been positive about their experience of reflecting upon the work of the church and how it can be improved. It was pleasing to receive comments like “I am glad this happened while I am alive” , “no matter what comes out of the Plenary Council, this has been great for our community”, “the church has always mattered to me but this is the first time I really felt that I mattered to the church” and “This gives me heart that my children and their children might find a spirituality that is meaningful and lifegiving”.

A report put out by the National

Centre for Pastoral Research (NCPR) (who are coordinating the submissions with the Plenary Council National team) shows that up to December 31, 2018, there were 326 respondents, 121 submissions and 229 people represented in 24 groups from the Wagga Diocese. The biggest percentage of submissions was from church goers aged between 30 and 69. It is interesting to note that a number of groups/parishes were submitting their findings after December 31. Up until that date, nationally there were 41,931 respondents involved in 5,388 submissions received.

So, where do we go from here?

The National Plenary Council facilitator, Lana Turvey-Collins says, “In this first stage of preparation which has been a wonderfully rich experience with over 40,000 people participating in Listening and Dialogue Encounters, and submitting a response to the question: ‘What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?’

She went on to say, “The qualitative analysis of the responses will be conducted by Dr Trudy Dantis and her team at the National Centre for Pastoral Research. Then after Easter in May, the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council, the Executive Committee,

and the Facilitation Team, will spend a few days of prayer and discussion with the input and guidance of the NCPR team to finalise the themes for the next stage of preparation: Listening and Discernment.

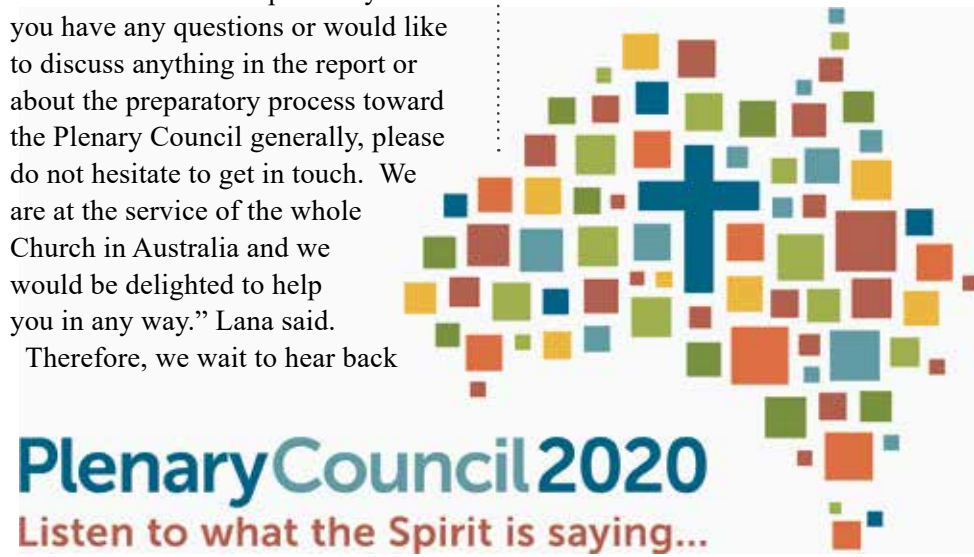
“The Listening and Discernment stage will commence at Pentecost 2019 (June 9th) and continue until early 2020. The purpose of this stage is to listen deeply to what the Spirit is saying through the responses we have received on a particular theme, and to understand and connect with the sense of faith that has been shared by the people of God across Australia.


“More information on this will be provided for you in coming months. For now, as an interim update, the NCPR have worked hard to prepare summary reports for each diocese. We hope this gives you some insight into the level of engagement for the local Church and the diversity of individual people and groups that are responding. This report is primarily quantitative and we hope this information is helpful for you. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in the report or about the preparatory process toward the Plenary Council generally, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are at the service of the whole Church in Australia and we would be delighted to help you in any way.” Lana said.

Therefore, we wait to hear back

from the Plenary Council team as to what are the major themes that need to be addressed and how we particularise those themes so they do become part of the function of the Australian Church. It is worth remembering that the Catholic Churches throughout the world are watching the progress of the Plenary Council in Australia because they are looking for ways to re-vitalise their churches.

In the meantime, we are asked to keep the conversation going in our own diocese, and in our own parish and perhaps the words of Pope Francis, “I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, styles and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. A proposal of goals without adequate communal search for the means of achieving them will inevitably prove illusory...” (Par 33. The Joy of the Gospel) have become more meaningful for those who have been involved in the discussion to date.






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- Using rewards and consequences
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- Working with schools
- Building self-esteem
- Family problem-solving
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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.

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# Women in Church governance

Images of old men gathering at the Vatican would give the world the false impression that women are totally excluded from governance in the Catholic Church.

**A contrasting picture arises from the governance of a group of Australian Church corporate entities where women are equal participants.**

For the past two years, Australia’s Ministerial Public Juridic Person (PJP)s have shared data on the participation of women in their governance. The results show that women are on average evenly represented.

Eva Skira, Deputy Chair of the Council of the Association of Ministerial PJPs said:

*“ASX listed companies have had a target of 30% women on their boards for some time but we have reached about 50% due in large part to the tradition many of us inherited from women Religious who have always governed their own Religious Institutes.”*

Under canon law, Church property and ministries are usually entrusted to either:

a Bishop; the leader of a Religious Institute/Order or to the trustees of a Ministerial PJP. The third of these three types of canonical stewards is fairly new with the average age of Australian Ministerial PJPs being twelve years. Ministerial PJPs in Australia were established to steward the ministries previously in the care of Bishops or Religious Institutes. There are eleven Ministerial PJPs operating education, health, aged care and other ministries across Australia. Some of the larger Ministerial PJPs are: Mary Aikenhead Ministries, St John of God Australia; and Edmund Rice Education Australia. It is very likely that the role of women within the Church will come forward in submissions to the Plenary Council 2020. The trustees of Ministerial PJPs look forward to participating in the resulting discussions.



Association of Ministerial PJPs Council: Moira Najdecki, Paul Oakley, Eva Skira, David Penny, Dr Maria Theresa Ho, Kieran McCarthy, Professor Peter Steane

	Among Ministerial PJP Trustees	Among the Board of Directors sponsored by Ministerial PJPs
Average percentage of women in Ministerial PJP governance	59% women in 2018 (60% in 2017)	49% women in 2018 (52% in 2017)



# Tuk-Tuk drivers join efforts to make the streets of Cairo safe for women

International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world on the 8th of March and is a day to reflect on how far we have come and how far we still have to go. This years theme is *More Powerful Together*.

**In Cairo Egypt, public transportation, including tuk-tuks [three wheeled taxi], were identified as public spaces where women and girls experience sexual harassment on a daily basis.**

For Mohamed Nemr, a twenty-four-year-old tuk tuk driver from the slums of Mansheyet Nasser in the western part of Cairo, Egypt, the streets belonged to men, and women’s place was at home. Until recently, he didn’t think that women and girls had a right to access public spaces without the fear of sexual harassment.

Through the UN Women Safe Cities Program, Mohamad participated in various training sessions on self-expression, including acting, singing,

painting and sculpturing. Since then, Mohamed’s views on women have changed.

“I realised that I was the cause of the problem,” he says. “It was me who didn’t know how to treat others. The training sessions have taught me how to express my feelings and now I can manage my frustrations and violent tendencies in more positive ways.”

Today, Mohamed is proud of his new role as an advocate for women’s rights. He says, “I volunteer in an anti-harassment campaign that talks to tuk-tuk drivers and other community members about how every woman has the right to walk on the street without being harassed. Our messages include women’s right to choose how to dress,



Photo: UN Women/Mona Soliman

without having anyone invading their personal space. We also distribute stickers saying, ‘My Tuk Tuk is Safe’ from sexual harassment.”

“Through art, I learned, understood and felt that women have rights in the same way that I do. I learned to respect women.”

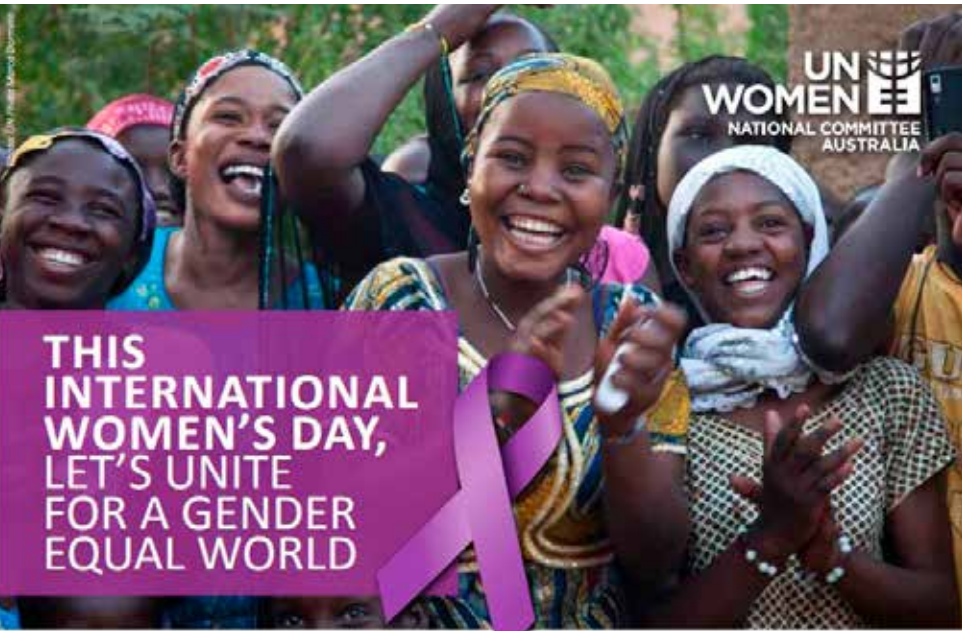
“Mohamed’s personality changed as he went through the program; now he has better relations and greater respect for women. Some women even take his phone number and call him for

their tuk-tuk rides because they have had a safe journey to their destination and he has treated them with respect,” said Ahmed Nakabassi, UN Women Program Assistant in Egypt.

To create a world where everybody can live a life free from violence and discrimination, we need everyone to stand together for gender equality. Gender equality does not just benefit women; it benefits us all.

Empowering women and girls helps to boost economies, build more resilient communities and combat gender roles that limit the rights and opportunities of all genders.

**Join in International Women’s Day 2019 events across Australia where we explore how we are #MorePowerfulTogether.**



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# 100th Anniversary of the Parish of All Saints

One hundred years has passed since Bishop Dwyer officially established the Parish of All Saints in Tumbarumba within the newly formed Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

by Rev. Dr. T. Brancik - Parish Priest

**This event was commemorated by the parish on the last Sunday of February at a luncheon.** Some might say that the celebrations were quite ‘low-key’ given the occasion. However a cursory glance at history would show that the Catholic community of Tumbarumba has been around for much longer than a mere one hundred years. What in fact was the reason for the celebration? A decree (kindly sourced by the diocesan archivist Mrs. Kay Judd) which states NOT that the Catholic community of Tumbarumba and its surrounds are materially capable of providing for their own priest, but rather that the spiritual needs of the people of this geographical area would be best served if they were to be identified as a specific parish committed to the care of a specific priest.

The motive for the establishment of the parish isn’t founded on a recognition of sufficient material resources present to support spiritual staff, but rather a real spiritual need of a recognisable spiritual flock to be entrusted to a recognised spiritual shepherd. In other words, this is a chosen people for which a priest needs to be chosen.

There is indeed a spiritual truth regarding parish and diocesan life which risks slipping into oblivion. Oftentimes we tend to be overly preoccupied with hoarding material resources thinking that this is what is necessary to keep the ‘institution’ running forgetful of the simple truth that “man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” The truth is: a parish isn’t an issue of money, it is one of faith. This truth has become very real in this diocese whilst we pray for God to send a shepherd to His people of the diocese of Wagga Wagga. We all deeply appreciate the work of the persons who labour for the day to day running of the ‘institution’ and we are grateful to them for this. Nevertheless we also realise that something isn’t quite right, something is different, something is missing or rather some-one. At home we know that at dinnertime the food will taste great, but somehow it’s just not the same family meal when the place at the head of the table is set but the chair is empty.

“Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”



Inset: The 100th Anniversary cake Above: Parishioners enjoying lunch in the parish hall



Mrs Rose Jervois and Mrs Barbara MacKenzie

Just as a diocese isn’t complete without its bishop so a parish is incomplete without its priest. In the southern highlands the Catholic people had been living, working and praying together for close to one hundred and fifty years. The first Catholic school in the Church of St. Stephen was run by young Catholic laywomen in the 1860’s. The Sisters of St. Joseph reopened the school in 1888. The

phenomenon of Faith was truly alive and well by the time the Wagga Wagga Diocese was erected in 1917. The decree establishing the Parish of Tumbarumba simply declared that the seed of faith had fallen on good soil. **It might yield a harvest of thirty, sixty or even a hundredfold and to ensure that the harvest here would be great God was sending a labourer into His harvest.**



The cake being cut by Mr. Rex and Mrs. Ursula O'Brien - the oldest serving parishioners

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# Meet Sister Mari Graciana

From the Congregation Verbo Y Victima in Piura on the north coast of Peru

**“My name is Mari Graciana, I am 28 years old and I come from Piura. There are five children in my family and I am the third.** Piura is on the north coast of Peru in an area that is fairly hot. The people are very joyful, spontaneous, open and very affectionate and welcoming as well.

I went to school together with my sister in a school run by nuns. My family taught us Christian values, so that whatever we did, we did it in a spirit of gratitude, to God first of all, and also to our parents.

I think that spending all my infancy and part of my adolescence in this particular school and I began to adopt the same attitudes as the sisters and the same way of thinking... But until the age of 13 I never ever thought of becoming one myself. It was one of the teachers at the college, who was the religion teacher in fact, who called me over during the lunchtime break and asked me, “have you ever thought about becoming a religious? Don’t you like the life we live?” And the truth is, it was then that I began to think about it, to think very hard about it. I spent many hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament, asking our Lord what he wanted for me. But although I prayed quite a lot compared to the other girls of my age, I don’t really think I was so different from other young people.

After spending some time before the Blessed Sacrament, I decided to follow His call, but now the question was how was I going to tell my parents about it? My dad would not accept it, not for a moment. It was quite hard for him. But by contrast my mum always supported me and said that there was no life more beautiful than being close to God and that she would be happy and at peace to know that things were well with me.

The sisters teaching at my school had a vocation for teaching, only teaching in schools, and this was one of the questions I asked myself: What kind of congregation should I enter?

I was still doubtful, although I loved the sisters and my school, their way

of life and everything. I began to ask myself what I was going to do. At that time I wanted to be a teacher, I was attracted to teaching but not sure about spending all my life as a teacher.

I went to a retreat in my parish and left more confused than ever, after seeing all the different charisms of all the congregations. I was still very, very doubtful about where I should go. I was just about to leave the centre where we had had the retreat, when my parish priest came up to me and asked, “So have you decided then?” Because he knew about my vocation. “No, Father, I’m more confused than ever; I don’t know where I should go.” So then he said to me, “I think that the Lord will speak to you.” And he handed me a little roll of parchment inside a little flask, on which was written a Bible quotation. I immediately took it out and read it: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. For me this was more than an answer. I said to myself, ‘The sisters at my school don’t baptise, they don’t go out and preach the Gospel. So where should I go then?’ None of the congregations which had been presented to me on that retreat had had a missionary vocation. I stayed calm, thinking that something would turn up. And it was then that the sisters of my congregation, the Missionaries of Jesus, Word and Victim came to my house. They told me about their charism, the places where they worked and the mission they were engaged in, and I said, “This is for me!”

### Life in the community Formation:

“Life in the convent during the formation phase is a little different from the life we lead when we are in mission. We get up at 5.15 a.m. and pray Morning Prayer (Lauds), spend time in contemplation, then Holy Mass, followed afterwards by breakfast.

After breakfast we have our first lesson. Every day of our lives we start with one hour of Bible studies. This is the



first lesson of the day and we also study the writings of our Father Founder as a guide.

After our Bible study we have an hour of theological studies. During our formation period we study theology, dogma, moral theology, Church history, philosophy, anthropology, and some aspects of Canon Law. These are all topics that will help serve as the basis for our mission.

Then follow the oficios, the domestic duties, and each person is given a different task, more or less in accordance with our abilities – such as the cooking, the cleaning, the sewing, the bakery, the shoe cleaning and mending... We do everything.

After this hour of manual duties we have Midday Prayer, followed by lunch and an hour of free time, followed by Vespers/Evening Prayer, another hour of lessons and then another session of manual duties. After supper we have recreation time, when we share our joys and all that has happened to us during the day, and then we end the day by praying Compline and finally retire to our cells.”

### MISSION

#### Life in the Mission:

“Here in the mission, the pace of life is a little quicker. We get up and have our prayer and our Bible studies like in community life, but then after that we have our apostolic duties. We go out in twos to visit people’s homes and families, or if there is some patronal feast, then we go to visit the villages.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Life is a little different from the formation stage, because now we are dedicating ourselves to the work for which we have been preparing for four or five years, namely our mission. Our prayer times are the same, but then we spend a lot of time with the people. On Sundays we have catechesis, we prepare people for baptism and look after our parish groups.”

### Our work in the mission, visiting families:

If we see that some member of the faithful is starting to fall away from God, it may well be because there is something going on in their family, and so we decide to visit them. Generally speaking, apart from the material poverty in people’s homes, we also come across quite a lot of spiritual poverty. Sometimes it’s a problem in the family, because the husband comes home drunk or beats his wife, or the children are left alone at home. Or the parents get divorced and then the mother has to go and work in another town or village, or else there is simply some quarrel in the family and this sometimes results in

continued on page 13...



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them falling away from God. It is true that with some people, the more problems they have, the more they turn to God, but sometimes the opposite happens: they have problems, so God doesn't exist, God won't help me, God does not love me... And so we have to bring back hope to this family, to revive their faith. If there are difficulties in the home, it is not because God is abandoning them.

Sometimes we come across a good deal of unhappiness in families, but I believe we usually leave them a little more comforted. They are very happy when we come to visit them in their homes, because they see it as a blessing. Sometimes they are even very moved and tell us: 'Madrecita (little mother), I didn't think that you would remember me, that you were thinking about me, no, I had no idea...'

God has given us, I think, a heart larger than any mother's; we seem to have a sixth sense for these things: That person looked sad in church, she was no longer smiling; something has happened to her...

We also go away very happy to have been able to help another soul. We haven't resolved their problems, but at least we have put back a little bit of love and hope in this family that was greatly needed.

**Our task of bringing the Eucharist to the sick and elderly...**

"Every Friday I go and take Holy Communion to the elderly. It is quite a difficult moment, because these elderly people once used to go themselves to church on their own two feet, they prayed and received Holy Communion. But now they can no longer do so. And so their inability to do so makes them feel terrible. Many of them refuse to accept their age and infirmity, they tell us: 'Madrecita, before, I used to go by myself to my chacra (my fields,

my garden), I used to go to Holy Mass every Sunday, I used to go and pray the Rosary, but now I can no longer do so. The Lord is punishing me.' And they weep, so for me it is very painful to see a situation like this; sometimes they even move me to tears as well.

And yet it is marvelous when I can say to them, 'So now a friend has come to visit you'. 'Who?', they ask. And I say to them, 'Jesus, Jesus has remembered you, he has said: Margarita used to come and see me for so many years, so now I am going to visit her, and so now I have brought you Communion.'

And then at that moment they are overcome with joy, they feel a joy that I cannot begin to describe, but they show it by their tears, by their smile – it is a mixture of everything. So then I say to them 'Now let's prepare ourselves, because the Lord is eager to be with you.' We prepare the little table, the altar on which we will place the Blessed Sacrament, and they receive Communion with great happiness, with so much joy.

**The difficulties:**

"For me the hardest thing is not being able to get to see everyone. Sometimes I feel a sense of impotence at not being able to somehow spend more time with them. But the truth is there are few of us, we don't have enough vocations, enough generous souls who want to be like us and bring the Gospel, bring a word of comfort and encouragement to these people. Often this has left me feeling bad about it: how did I not manage to reach that family? But time simply ran out on us and we couldn't do so; it costs me a great deal not to be able to do more, but the fact is that the villages are sometimes so far away, the roads are so difficult and it is simply impossible to reach everyone."

**A little anecdote about my work that I would like to share with you...**

I'd like to tell you about the group of 12 to 15 altar boys whom I look after.

We teach them how to serve at Holy Mass, how to ring the bell, carry the candles, take the collection, things like that... During the meetings we hold every Friday I not only try to teach them what they have to do in the church, but also the right values – how they should behave generally, their attitude inside the church, in school, towards their mothers. I tell them: 'It's because you are not like other children, you are special, you serve at the altar.' The children are generally round about 8 – 11 in age, so they are generally fairly biddable, but as children they can also be quite naughty.

On one occasion I recall that a group of them did something very naughty. I told myself that I would have to scold them a little because if that were to happen again it would be very bad. So I prepared myself spiritually and I called them up. First of all I called up the main protagonist in this piece of mischief and said to him, 'Look, what you have done was not good. I love you very much, but I will not let that happen again.' And then he turned to me and said, 'Madre, so you love me?' 'Of course I love you', I replied. So then he hugged me and

said, 'My mummy never tells me she loves me.' This disarmed me completely, and I lost all desire to tell him off. These children really do not have a family, a mummy, a daddy, to tell them they love them. They're in the chacra (the field) the whole time, always the chacra, the chacra. The children escape to come to the parish, to be with us. It made me realise just how important it can be for them to have someone like a mother. It was something I hadn't thought of before; I used to think it quite normal that these boys, these children, should come to us and give us a hug, should show affection – but beneath it all there is this emptiness inside them. I no longer felt any desire to rebuke him and he too went away very quietly and happy, because la madre loved him.



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# Former Victorian Senator Jacinta Collins appointed as NCEC Executive Director

Former Victorian Senator Jacinta Collins has been appointed Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission (NCEC) by the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

**NCEC chairman Greg Crafter AO said Jacinta is renowned as a strong advocate for social justice and quality education across all sectors.**

“Jacinta brings a wealth of experience, skills and dedication to the role,” Mr Crafter said.

“Since entering the Senate in 1995, she has held several leadership roles and has served on the frontbench in the portfolios of school education, early childhood, workplace relations, mental health and ageing.

“As the parent of three children herself and somebody with a long standing dedication to social justice, Jacinta has always had a deep interest in early learning and the importance of providing quality school education and development opportunities for all children.

“Her parliamentary knowledge and strong commitment to the values that

underpin Catholic schools make her the ideal person to lead the NCEC as it continues to advocate on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of families who entrust their children to our care every school day.”

Jacinta said she was looking forward to her new role as a champion for the needs of Catholic schools, which educate one in every five Australian students.

“I am passionate about education and ensuring all Australian children receive an excellent education,” she said.

“Australia’s school system is unique with its mix of government, Catholic and Independent schools and I believe that parents should have the choice about which school is best for their child.

“In the Parliament, I was a strong advocate for fair funding for all schools and I will continue to be a strong voice



Jacinta Collins, Executive Director of the National Catholic Education Commission

for the needs of Catholic schools, teachers and students.”

Mr Crafter thanked Ray Collins (no relation) for his stewardship of the NCEC over the past year.

“Ray came out of retirement to lead the NCEC during an eventful 2018,” Mr Crafter said.

“He had been Director of Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle for nine years until retiring in December 2016 and closing out a distinguished 44 year career in education.

“Ray has displayed an integrity and dedication to his vocation as a Catholic educator, earning the respect of his colleagues and education stakeholders.

“He has been a wonderful servant of Catholic education over many decades and we thank him for answering the call one more time. He can now resume his well deserved retirement.”

# Global achievers win top NSW Catholic schools sports honours

**Paralympian swimmer Tim Hodge and world cross-country champion Ella Heeney have received the Vince Villa Award for most outstanding NSW Catholic school athletes in 2018.**

Tim and Ella join past winners of the prestigious NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) honour which have included Olympian Jana Pittman and NRL stars Nathan Cleary and Campbell Graham.

CCC Chairman John Sparks said the awards are the pinnacle of the annual NSW Blue Awards, established in 1997 to recognise the outstanding achievements of NSW Catholic school athletes across all sports.

“Catholic schools have nurtured the careers of hundreds of professional Australian athletes, thanks largely to the dedication of volunteer teachers and well supported by parents,” Mr Sparks said.

Tim Hodge, of Patrician Brothers’ Blacktown, was recognised for his strong showings at 2018’s Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and the Para Pan

Pacific Games in Cairns.

Last year, Tim won silver medals in the 100m breaststroke and 100m backstroke Commonwealth events, before picking up four gold medals and a silver at the Para Pan Pacific Games.

In 2016, he competed in five events at the Rio Paralympic Games, placing fifth in the 200m individual medley and sixth in the men’s 100m backstroke – outstanding achievements for a school-boy athlete.

Mr Sparks said Tim was born with a lower leg deficiency and had his right foot amputated when he was four. He is also missing two fingers on his right hand and his right arm is shorter than his left.

“But none of these conditions stopped him from developing into an outstanding swimmer and backstroke specialist. Tim would regularly compete against able bodied athletes, just to get involved.

“He currently holds one world record and 114 Australian records in his swimming category (S9).”



The winners of the main prize, the Vince Villa Award for the most outstanding Catholic school male and female athletes, are at the front on either side of the guest speaker, Emma Tonegato OAM, a past Blue Award winner from Holy Spirit College Bellambi and a dual Rugby League and Rugby 7s international.

Ella Heeney, from Mackillop College in Port Macquarie, won the World Schools Under 18s Female Cross Country Championship in France last year.

She also finished first in the NSW CCC, New South Wales All Schools and School Sport Australia events in 2018.

“Ella has been a member of the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges’ Triathlon Team in 2013, 2014 and 2015 and in 2017/2018 represented Australia at the World Cross Country event,” Mr Sparks said.

“Last year, she became the best female schools’ cross country runner in the world – a fantastic achievement for a student who was also completing her Higher School Certificate that year.”

Mr Sparks said Ella and Tim are both inspiring role models for their peers and are well respected by their respective school communities.

**“Their athletic achievements are outstanding, yet they both maintained excellent academic results. We acknowledge their exceptional contribution to school sport.”**



# ACU welcomes foundation Professor of Canon Law from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome

Australian Catholic University's (ACU's) Thomas More Law School welcomed Dr Michele Riondino this week as the foundation Professor of Canon Law.

**Dean of the Law School, Professor Rocque Reynolds, said that Professor Riondino was a scholar with an outstanding international reputation.**

Professor Riondino comes to ACU from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome where he has enjoyed a distinguished academic career. After obtaining a LL.M., Th.M. and Ph.B., he earned his Ph.D. at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome.

In 2013 he became full professor of Canon Law and Children's Rights at the Lateran University where he has taught since 2010.

Canon law is the set of ordinances and regulations made by Church leaders for the government of a Christian organisation, church and its members.

Professor Riondino is author of two books, *"Family and Minors. Legal*

*and Canonical Themes"* (2011) and *"Restorative Justice and Mediation in Canon Penal Law"* (2011; 2nd edition 2012).

He is coauthor with Manuel J. Arroba Conde of, *"Introduzione al diritto canonico"* (2015; 2nd edition 2017; 3rd edition 2019); the English translation will be published in May 2019 under the title *"Introduction to Canon Law"*. Professor Riondino is also author of numerous academic journal articles and book chapters.

In 2018 Professor Riondino was the visiting scholar at Heythrop College-University of London focusing his research on law and religion in educational matter. He has also acted as keynote speaker at numerous conferences and lectures in Europe, Africa, America, Asia and Oceania.

From 2013 to 2016 he was the adjunct professor of Canon Law at LUMSA University School of Law. Since 2012 he has been a lawyer at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Thomas More Law School Deputy Head Dr Catherine Renshaw said the appointment was a reflection of ACU's commitment to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.

"Our goal is to carry out world class research and to produce law graduates who are principled, ethical and equipped to succeed in a rapidly changing and increasingly globalised profession," said Dr Renshaw.

"Professor Riondino brings with him an international perspective and a strong commitment to advancing the Catholic values of the law school."

Professor Riondino will hold a joint professorial appointment with the Faculty of Law and Business and the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy. He will be based in the Law School at the Sydney campus.

The Thomas More Law School places human dignity and standing



Dr Michele Riondino, ACU's foundation Professor of Canon Law

up for people in need at the heart of our degrees. Students learn through real-world experience in the form of pro bono placements and mooting competitions at home and abroad.



## CRA supports Migration Amendment Bill

The Migration Amendment (Urgent Medical Treatment) Bill, proposed by the Member for Wentworth, Dr Kerry Phelp was debated in the House of Representatives on 12th February.



**This Bill sought to guarantee that those held on Nauru and Manus Island, for whom Australia has a duty of care, receive the essential, timely and appropriate medical care required when they are sick.** This may mean being transferred to another medical facility. Members of Catholic Religious Australia strongly support the view that medical professionals are best qualified to make sound decisions on health and well-being.

We believe it is incumbent on those in government, who represent us, to act with integrity, to treat others as we ourselves would want to be treated. We strongly

urge our political leaders to support Dr. Phelps' amendment to the Bill. "This will go a long way to ensuring that the sick in our care, are afforded the dignity and respect we all deserve," said Monica Cavanagh rsj, President of Catholic Religious Australia.

This Amendment has already passed two readings in the Senate and includes a specific power for the Minister to refuse a transfer to any off-shore location on National Security grounds.

Members of Catholic Religious Australia are deeply disturbed by the continuing policy of 'show no mercy' being visited upon refugees and asylum seekers, held in indefinite detention on Nauru and Manus Island. **We believe this Bill is a touchstone for a mature and civil society.**





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Bookings online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)



# More support for those doing it tough in Wagga Wagga

People doing it tough in Wagga Wagga and surrounding areas now have access to more support through the newly opened Micah Hub on Gurwood Street.

Micah Hub is a one-stop-shop for people needing help with bills, food, housing or social support. It is a purpose-built facility reflecting Vinnies longstanding commitment to the Wagga Wagga community to alleviate disadvantage and help families in need.

“People turn to Vinnies when they are homeless or at risk of homelessness, have mental health issues, are victims of domestic violence or are in need of short-term support with food, rent, or escalating electricity, gas and water bills,” Beverley Kerr, Vinnies NSW Vice President said.

“Every day our people support individuals and families in difficulty get back on track so they can live independently in their own community. Micah Hub allows us to continue this valuable work,” Beverley said.

Jenni Duff, Wagga Wagga Central

Council President said what makes Micah Hub special is the care and compassion we provide to people who seek our support.

“The Society places the Wagga Wagga community and its people at the centre of what we do, we are here for those who have fallen on tough times.” Jenni said.

In the last financial year the Society in the Wagga Wagga region helped 1,798 people. The main expenditure has been

on providing \$38,000 of assistance with energy and water payments, over \$120,000 on providing food, over \$60,000 on support with accommodation and rent.

We cannot undertake this valuable and life-changing work without the generosity of local people.

Anyone wanting to make a donation or provide support can do so by visiting our website [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)





# What is Ash Wednesday?

As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

**Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.**

Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God.

Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. Even non-Christians and the excommunicated are welcome to receive the ashes. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer

and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening. Catholics should still receive ashes within the context of Mass.

In some cases, ashes may be delivered by a priest or a family member to those who are sick or shut-in.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which

prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

## Why we receive the ashes:

Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told *"Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."*

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of

their sins -- just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

## The Ashes:

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.



A multi-sector dialogue on living the joy of the Gospel and leading mission

2019 Mission one heart many voices

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Above all, the conference purpose is to affirm, inspire, nurture and imagine. It will enable participants to 'go forth boldly' (EG 261) and lead mission with a heart for the future.

**mohmv.com.au**

Conference Organisers:



## News from the Serra Club

Welcome to all our members, supporters and friends of Serra.

by **Andrew Kennedy** - Serra Club, Wagga Wagga

Our last get together was celebrating mass in Saint Michael's Cathedral followed by a barbeque dinner with the Seminarians before they headed home for their Christmas break in November. There was a good roll up of people from around the diocese.

February came around pretty quick again with Serra Wagga members getting back around the table and planning out what needs to be done to help fulfil our Serra vocation.

Some points worth noting are that we have three new first year seminarians studying at Vianney beginning on the 18th February with a fourth year seminarian studying for the Armidale Diocese. Please keep these men in your prayers.

Our fundraising dinner will again be a major event for our club with the date to be advised along with a special guest speaker to be announced.

Our raffle was drawn on our final dinner night with first prize going to Michael Perry, second prize to Shane Cummins and the third prize went to Wendy Cattell. Congratulations to those winners. Thanks to all who purchased tickets or kindly donated.

We will again have all night vigils beginning in March with first Friday mass, then Serrans rostered on throughout the night along with 2 seminarians in attendance spending an hour in front of our Lord.

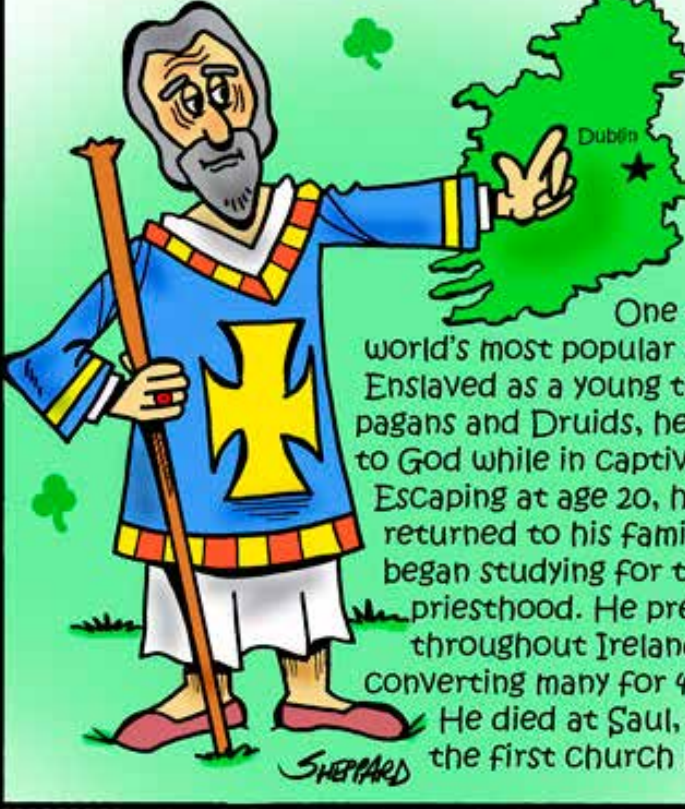
There will be a couple of school visits where Serrans cook up a barbeque for the students after they have heard from those who have chosen priesthood for their vocation.

Anyway, that's some of what we have to communicate to you all of what's coming up this year. If any person out there is interested in joining our club, we meet the second Tuesday of each month for meeting, mass and dinner. **You can contact Andrew Kennedy on 0428 475 869.**



# KIDS corner

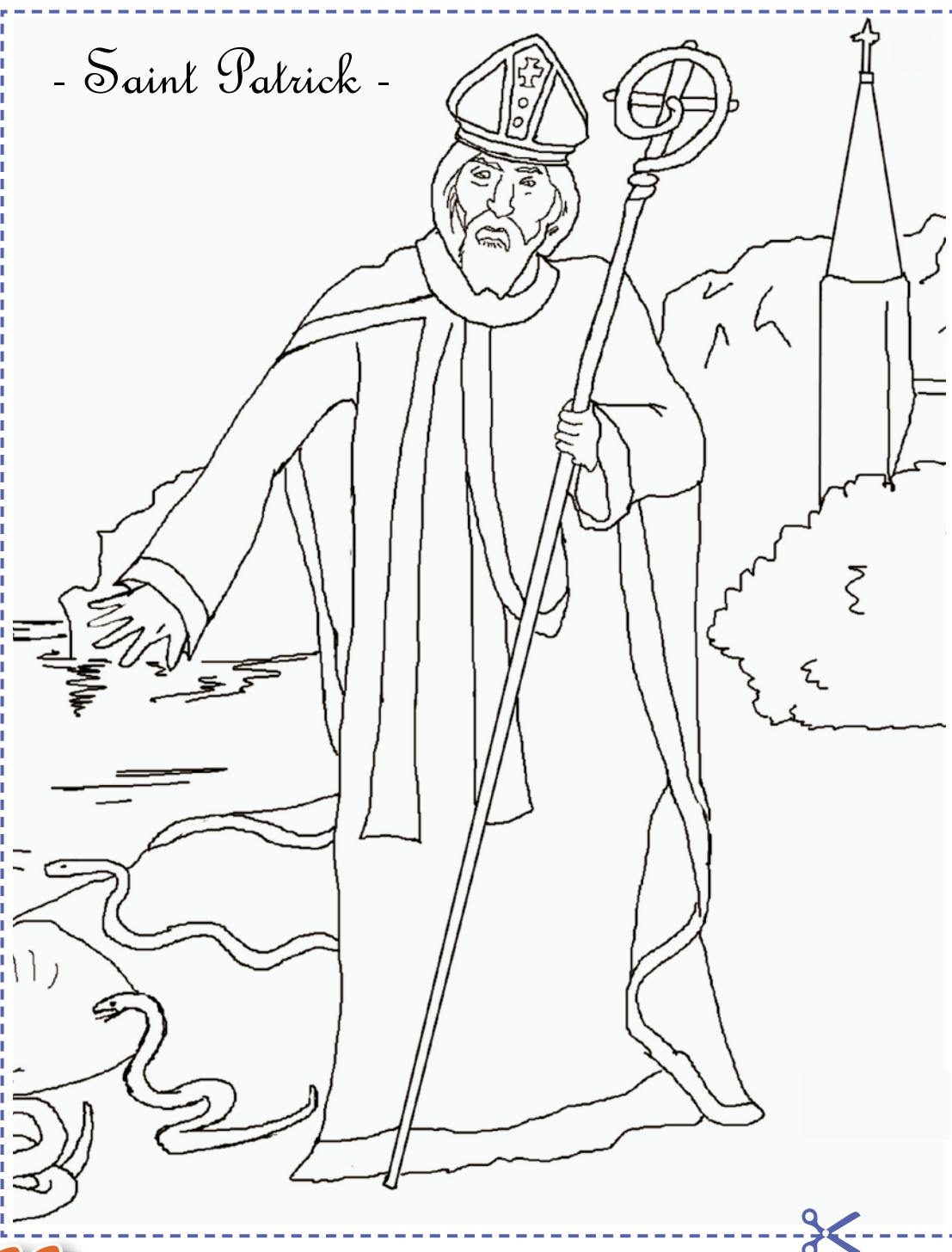
## SAINTS FUN FACTS



by John Sheppard

One of the world's most popular saints. Enslaved as a young teen by pagans and Druids, he turned to God while in captivity. Escaping at age 20, he returned to his family and began studying for the priesthood. He preached throughout Ireland converting many for 40 years. He died at Saul, site of the first church he built.

(C) 2009 John Sheppard - Distributed by Catholic Online - www.catholic.org



# Science... Mentos Geyser



*This activity is definitely best done outside as it will create a world of mess, but loads of FUN!*

- You'll need:**
- Roll of Mentos
  - 2 litre bottle of soda
  - Wide open space

### Instructions:

- First, open the bottle of soda.
- Place the bottle on flat ground so that it will not tip.
- Unwrap the whole roll of Mentos.
- The goal is to drop all of the Mentos into the bottle of soda at the same time (which is harder than you think).
- One easy way is to roll a piece of sturdy paper into a tube just big enough to hold the loose Mentos - make sure it can fit through the top of the bottle.
- Have everyone stand back and then quickly drop all of the Mentos into the bottle at the same time and RUN!
- The soda will erupt straight up in the air and your children will forever think you're cool!
- You can do this as many times as you're willing to spray down the area that is drenched.



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

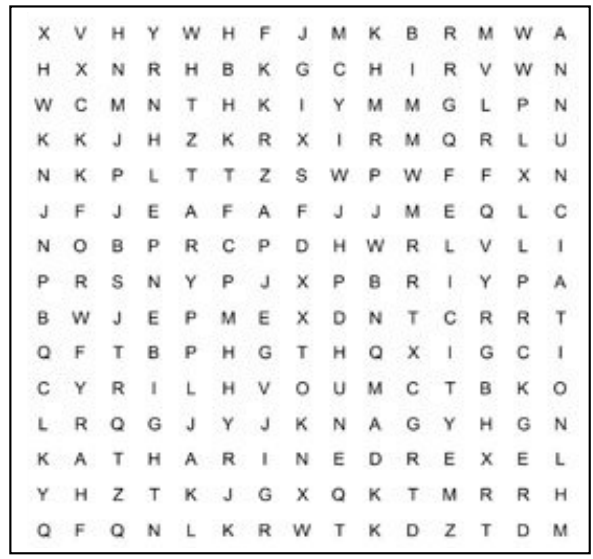
Together Editor  
PO Box 473  
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

*We'd love to hear from you!*



## MARCH SAINTS & FEAST DAYS Word Search

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



- St. Katharine Drexel
- St. Casimir
- St. Perpetua
- St. Felicity
- St. John of God
- St. Patrick
- St. Joseph
- St. Cyril of Jerusalem
- The **Annunciation** of the Lord



# Crossword...

## A Lenten Crossword Puzzle for highschoolers.

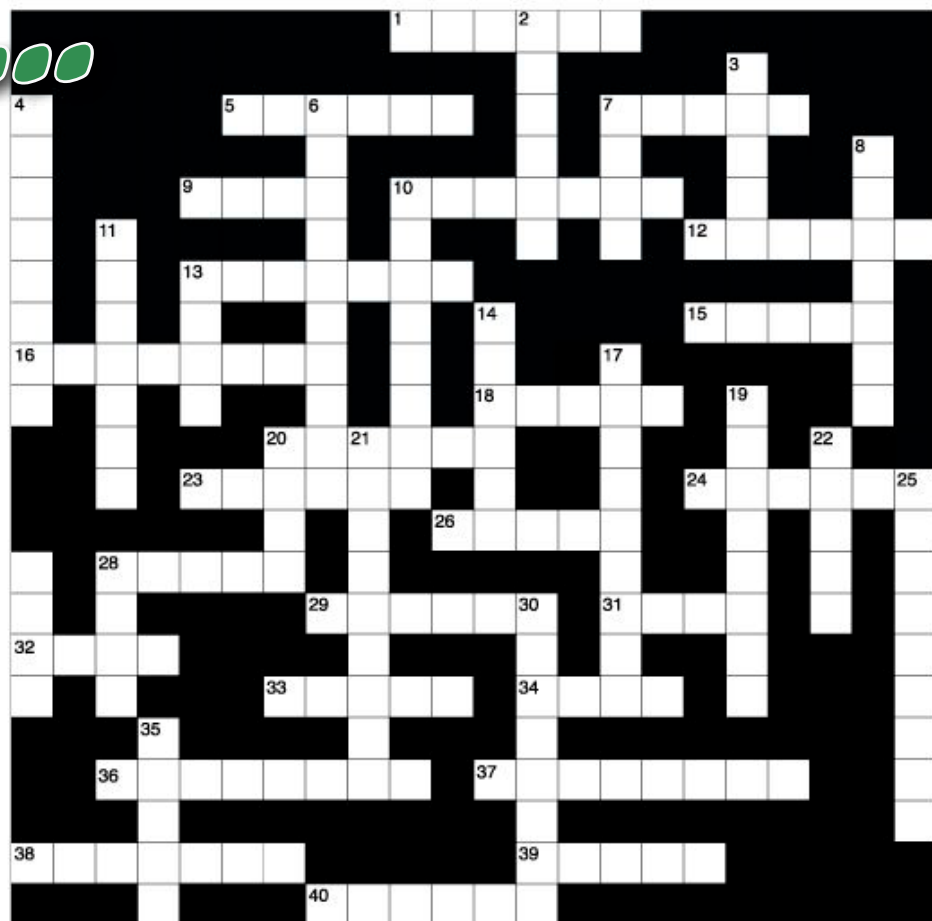
See page 24 for the answers.

### ACROSS

- 1 Our \_\_\_\_\_, who art in Heaven.
- 5 Our acts of kindness help us grow \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
- 7 Who did Jesus tell not to weep for him, but for all the sinners of the world?
- 9 What tore at the Temple in Jerusalem when Jesus died?
- 10 When we go without something for a time, we \_\_\_\_\_ from it.
- 12 Where was Simon from?
- 13 Jesus came to proclaim God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 15 The soldiers put a \_\_\_\_\_ of thorns on Jesus' head.
- 16 What did Jesus' death open? A new \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- 18 How many times does Jesus fall?
- 20 Who donated the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ of Arimathea.
- 23 What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn into bread?
- 24 Who pulls off Jesus' clothes?
- 26 What Christ was crucified on.
- 28 Who helped Jesus carry the cross?
- 29 Jesus' body was wrapped in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 31 Jesus gave His \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
- 32 Ash Wednesday is the first day of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 33 What we are marked with on Ash Wednesday
- 34 What we give to the poor, especially during Lent
- 36 Who beat Jesus?
- 37 Veronica performed an act of \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus.
- 38 When we don't eat for a time, it is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 39 What fastened Jesus' hands and feet to the cross?
- 40 Who mocked Jesus, laughed at him, threw things as he was carrying His cross?

### DOWN

- 2 Jesus' and Mary's \_\_\_\_\_ ached at each other's pain.
- 3 The cross was very \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Who wiped the face of Jesus?
- 6 Sundays are Holy Days of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 The soldiers \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus when he falls a second time.
- 8 Acts of \_\_\_\_\_ say we are sorry for our sins.
- 10 Some of the \_\_\_\_\_ helped take Jesus down from the cross.
- 11 What was the hill of the Crucifixion called?



- 13 Even bruised and bleeding, Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14 Mary is Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.
- 17 In what city did Christ's passion take place?
- 19 How many Stations of the Cross are there?
- 20 Who baptised Jesus?
- 21 Jesus was laid in a tomb, also called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 22 In the Our Father, we ask God to give us our daily \_\_\_\_\_.
- 25 Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ for the sins of the world.
- 27 What did Jesus do at the Third Station?
- 28 What is Jesus suffering for? Our \_\_\_\_\_.
- 30 The fourteen stages of Christ's Passion, also called the Way of the Cross
- 35 How many days did Jesus wander in the desert? How many years did the Israelites wander in the desert?

## Yank out that beam

**I have a good friend recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction.** He has spent time in prison because of his addictions. And his life inspires me.

What inspires me is the gut-wrenching honesty he shows about his personal flaws. When he has a conflict with someone, he first looks at whether he did something wrong. He always apologises when he realises that he caused or worsened a conflict by his attitude or comments.

I wish I could be more like him. For some reason it's hard for humans to look honestly at ourselves, especially when we are fighting with someone. It is much easier to blame or judge other people. But that's exactly what Jesus warns against in this week's Gospel. Christians need gut-wrenching honesty about themselves. The more we look at our faults - knowing God loves us despite them - the more we mature and our faults no longer control us. Then we can discover our full potential.

My friend says he can continue to recover from addiction only if he remains honest about all his weaknesses, especially his desire for

drugs and alcohol. That self-honesty, he says, frees him daily to grow, change, and contribute to the world in powerful ways.

You can follow my friend's example. Each night take time to look honestly at yourself. Look at your strengths and weaknesses. Be proud of the good things you did during the day. But own up to your mistakes, and ask God to help you learn from them. Over time you'll develop the habit for gut-wrenching honesty, and with that will come pride, maturity, and the respect of the people who know you.

When you look honestly at yourself, what are your greatest strengths? When you look honestly at yourself, what are your greatest weaknesses? Can you turn your weaknesses over to God?



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## IN FOCUS:

**Jesus condemns hypocrisy more than any other sin or fault.** The ones we follow need to be good people, good teachers. We don't want to be led by blind leaders. Just as we can tell trees are good by the goodness of their fruit, we can tell teachers and leaders are good by the goodness of their words and their actions.

Just as the fruit is a reflection of the tree, it is often said that children are a reflection of their parents, or their family.

*Have you ever worried about what others will think of you based on the actions of your children, your siblings, or your parents?*

*If parents are to blame for the faults of their children, then are the parents to be congratulated for the successes of their children?*

*When is it time for the world to look at each person as an individual, responsible for her or his own faults and successes, without being a reflection of her or his parents or family?*

A person of integrity acts and speaks from principles. This type of person will not say one thing and do another. This type of person is said to "walk the talk". Such a person is honest and reliable, and when a mistake is made, his or her values and motives are usually not questioned, because this person is trusted.

*Do you know many people like this? How do you know they are really trustworthy?*

*Are you a person like this? How do others view you? How do you view yourself?*



## Marian Catholic College, Griffith



Marian Catholic College had their swimming carnival on 8th February. Check out their fantastic dress ups.



## St Joseph's Primary, Lockhart



A creative video has helped St Joseph's Lockhart win a \$5,000 technology package in an Australia and New Zealand wide competition. It depicts Year 5 and 6 students acting as teachers, the hilarious video able to show why their school deserved the technology. **Congratulations!!**

## St Francis De Sales College, Leeton

On the steps of the Sydney Opera House 18th February. These are St Francis De Sales College's very talented year 12 and 11 music students about to attend the "encore" concert, showcasing the very best HSC works from 2018. **Such a great opportunity!!**



## St Patrick's School, Holbrook



St Patrick's School had their Opening School Mass on 21st February.



## St Joseph's School, Jerilderie



On 26th February, the 5/6 students continued their Science and Technology lessons experimenting with Little Bits.



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now



## St Patrick's Primary, Griffith

As part of a STEM project (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics), year 1 students worked together to build a tower entirely out of spaghetti. With a little problem solving, hard-work and determination, they created some STEM-tastic towers.



## Kildare College, Wagga

The Year 11 Art students had the greatest time at Bundanon; learning about the work of Arthur Boyd, perspective painting and experimenting with mark making.



## St Anne's School, North Albury



On 25 February there was much excitement as some players from the Richmond Football Club visited St Anne's!

Some of the tiger loving students (and teachers) were thrilled to have their photo taken with the players!



## Henschke Primary School, Wagga

Year 4 Henschke students recently attended a soccer gala day. Well done to everyone involved on what was a hot couple of days.



## St Joseph's Primary School, Narrandera

St Joseph's Kinder recently enjoyed the NRMA Bus Safety Day.



## St Peter's School, Coleambally



Well done to all participants at the Deanery Swimming Carnival. **You did a great job!** A special congratulations to Dallas Hickey runner up 11yr Boys champion and Riley Perkins as age champion for 11yr Boys.

## St Joseph's Primary School, Finley

On 26th February Mason, Isaac, Wispa and Robbie participated in footy trials in Thurgoona. The boys had a great day and enjoyed the experience. Congratulations to Isaac and Wispa who have made it on to the next level to be held in Wagga in April.





# CHOSEN RETREAT 2019

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# Fight the good fight

Chosen Youth's annual retreat is back bigger, better and earlier this year!

Since 2016, Chosen has grown impressively throughout the Wagga Wagga Diocese as young Catholics have found enjoyment through opportunities to form genuine friendships and develop their relationship with Christ. Now, with established groups in Wagga Wagga, Leeton, Narranderra, Griffith and Albury - the message that God has "chosen" us to go out and bear witness to others (John 15:16) is being strongly embraced by our Diocese's youth.

Chosen provides a relaxed and welcoming environment for youth to meet others of the same faith and share the struggles and joys of being a Catholic teen or young adult in today's society. These Communion groups serve the purpose of establishing relationships within the context of our Catholic faith and life purpose to make it to heaven. At Communion groups, attendees participate in discussions, receive talks from priests and other speakers, have the opportunity to ask questions and join in prayer and

adoration.

After a successful retreat at Harrierville (in the Diocese of Sandhurst) late last year, Chosen's 2019 retreat will be held at Borambola from March 22-24. Like those before it, the retreat will feature new and returning guest speakers including Sister Hannah (Missionaries of Charity), Andrew Flores (Virtue Ministry), Sam Clear (Walk4Alone and The Road to Adolfo) and so much more.

Many attendees from our Diocese - ranging from 13 to 26 - over the last few years have spoken highly of the spiritual fruits they both experienced and witnessed during Chosen's past retreats. With opportunities for mass, adoration, confession, prayer, music, games, discussions and strengthening of relationships... this is a retreat not to be missed!

This year's retreat theme is inspired by Paul's call to action of Christians to "Fight the Good Fight" and all youth from Wagga Diocese and beyond are invited.



Registrations of \$160 can be made online via Chosen's Facebook page or this direct online link: [www.trybooking.com/463291](http://www.trybooking.com/463291).

Subsidies for siblings are available and can be arranged by contacting the Chosen Youth Team.

Those seeking more information can contact Chosen Youth via Facebook or call Christopher Gilroy 0429344123 or Claudia Pook 0434 714 112

**This is a retreat not to be missed!**

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**It's Not Too Late... An Ecumenical Response..**

*On Caring for our*

*Common Home*

*"The earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor she groans in travail. This is reflected in the symptoms of the sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life."*  
**Pope Francis Laudato Si' 2.**

**An Australian Ecumenical Response To Pope Francis' Laudato Si'**  
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**It's not too late... but time is running out!**

**Come, join an ecumenical dialogue with those who make their own the prayer of Pope Francis:**  
*Bring healing to our lives so that we may protect the world and not prey on it. Teach us to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature. As we journey towards your infinite light*



Most Rev. Philip Huggins Anglican Bishop: President National Council of Churches Australia. Newly appointed Director of the Centre for Ecumenism at the ACC&C  
Dianne Torrens: Chairperson: Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress  
Dr Ross Gregory Garnaut AC Prominent Australian economist.  
Anthony Kelly CSsR Doctor of Theology, Member of the International Theological Commission. (2004-14). Author of Integral Ecology and the Fullness of Life (2008)  
Dr Bruce Duncan, C.Ss.R Director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Network, Social Policy Connections.  
Jacqui Remond: Co-Founder Global Catholic Climate Movement Former Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia.  
Rev John Williams, Adjunct Professor in Public Policy and Environmental Management ANU.  
Rev Glenn Loughrey Wirudjuri Artist and Priest, St Oswald's Anglican Church, Glen Iris.  
R. Quentin Grafton, Professor of Economics, Director of the Centre for Water Economics, Environment and Policy.  
Dr Jason John: Uniting Earth Ministry.  
Dr Cristina Gomez, Feminist and Asian Systemic Theologian, Campus Pastoral Associate ACU, Research Fellow Charles Sturt University.  
David Marsh, Master of Sustainable Agriculture is an award winning farmer, conservationist and change agent from Boorowa in the South West Slopes of NSW.

Email [info@stclement.com.au](mailto:info@stclement.com.au)

Phone: 02 6380 5222



# Teacher of the month: Louise Azzi



**Name/background/years teaching:**

Louise Azzi is a teacher at Xavier High School Albury. She has been teaching for 28 years. She currently teaches Photography and Digital Media and Visual Arts.

**Where did you grow up?**

Albury NSW

**Why did you become a teacher?**

For as long as I can remember I wanted to be a teacher. I have always loved Visual Arts and Photography and wanted to teach others so that they too could learn to express themselves

Each month we will shine the spotlight on a teacher working within our Diocese. This month we caught up with Louise Azzi, a teacher at Xavier High School in Albury.

visually and also enjoy a passion which will last well beyond school.

**What brought you to teach in the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga?**

I had been living in Melbourne and working casually as a teacher when I saw a job advertised at my old school in Albury. Teaching jobs were scarce in Melbourne and this would be my first opportunity to teach in my subject area while also allowing me to reconnect with family and old friends.

**What are some of the highlights in your role as a teacher?**

I really enjoy the transformation that happens in students from year to year but particularly when they truly find their passion or master a skill or concept that they have been grappling with, or even navigate personal issues with more maturity. Having a vertical Homeroom means that you really get to be a part of a student's life for their

entire time at high school.

**What are some of the challenges in your role as a teacher?**

Some of the biggest challenges faced by most teachers today, myself included, would be student engagement and sustaining motivation. Technology has provided many opportunities, especially in my main subject area of Photographic & Digital Media but it also provides plenty of distractions for students too. Finding relevant and engaging ways to present content and working alongside parents to teach responsible use of technology for both recreation and learning remains at the forefront of our teaching practice.

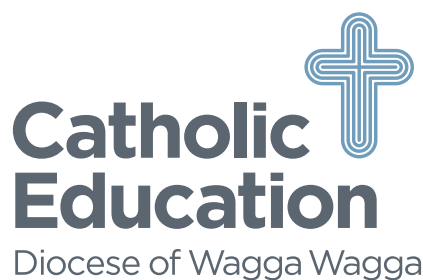
**What professional learning opportunities have you been exposed to this year?**

It has been a very busy start to the year with a number of professional learning opportunities including: the Xavier Towards 2020 Conference at Mulwala,

an online course in Special Effects for Video and PD with De Coursey on using HSC data as a learning improvement tool.

**What do you hope to achieve in your role as a teacher?**

As a teacher I hope in some way to have had an impact on my students. I hope that every student I teach in Photography Digital Media walks away from my class feeling a sense of achievement. Whether that be on the camera, in Photoshop or in filmmaking, that they have all grown in knowledge and skills and had a chance to experience success.

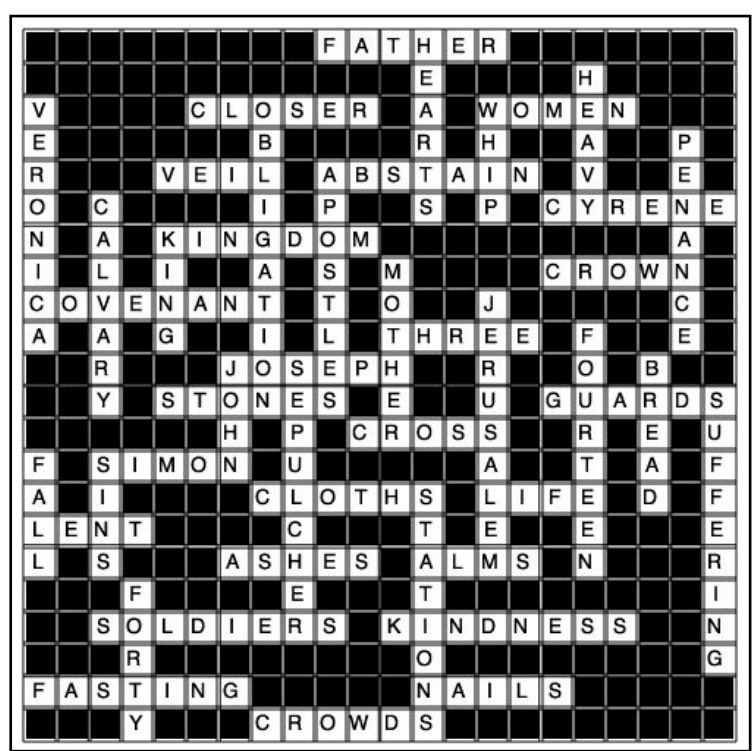


## Apology

In last months issue on page 14 in the obituary for Sister Patricia Osborne RSM it was stated that Rob Unsworth had written the eulogy when it was actually written by Rhonda McCormack.

Many apologies to Rhonda for the error.

**Answers for the Crossword Puzzle on page 19:**



Monthly Funny



### Thomasinas

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Marian Club Cabaret Presents

# R&B

FRI 5 APRIL // SAT 6 APRIL 2019 // \\ MARCELLIN HALL - MCC \\

**TICKET PRICES**  
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\* price includes platter  
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# Living Gospel

## Daily Devotions for Lent 2019

The pastoral insight of Deacon Charles Paolino and the spiritually rich Lenten Gospel readings enliven the popular five-step format of **The Living Gospel** devotional series. In *Daily Devotions for Lent 2019*, Paolino's engaging reflections will focus your prayer from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday and make your season of conversion refreshingly fruitful.

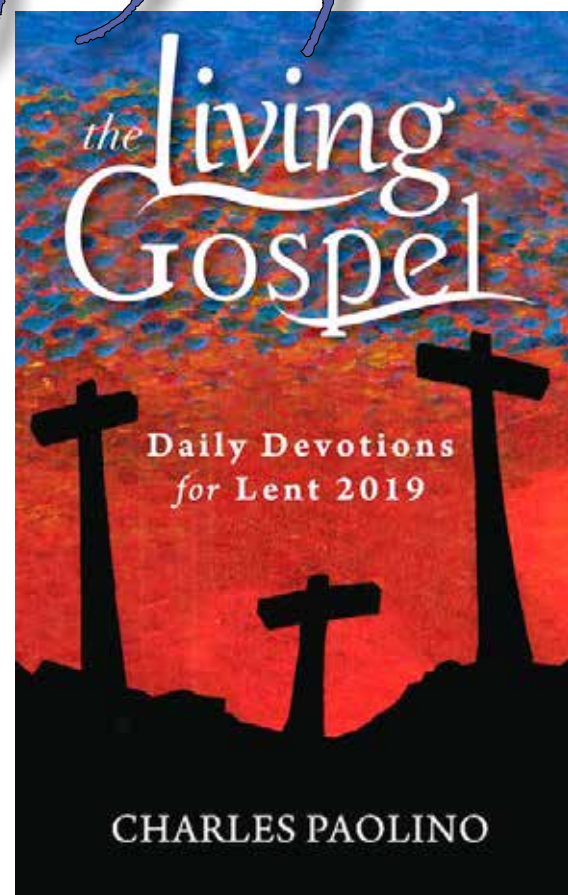
*Daily Devotions for Lent 2019* offers soul-searching direction and challenges you to stay focused on the disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Popular columnist and preacher Deacon Charles Paolino, managing editor at RENEW International, will inspire you along the way with stories from his personal life and parish ministry.

Each day's two-page devotion begins with a simple call to prayer followed by a psalm verse and a brief scripture passage. Paolino's daily reflections help you connect your everyday life with the call to repentance and conversion we hear during Lent. His insights and guidance are reinforced with a focused spiritual exercise for the day and summed up with a brief prayer asking God's blessing, mercy, and courage.

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The Living Gospel series of devotionals for Lent and Advent offers spiritual insight and practical wisdom from popular Catholic preachers, speakers, and homilists. A new voice each season and a simple format invite Catholics to hear and embrace the living Word of God.



9781594718496

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Deacon Paolino spent 43 years in newspaper journalism and more than 30 years as an adjunct instructor of English at various universities and colleges. He is a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Metuchen, ministering in liturgy, preaching, and adult education at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Whitehouse Station. He also is a columnist for *The Catholic Spirit*, the newspaper and web site of the Diocese of Metuchen.

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- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

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

Enquiries to the Tribunal Office at McAlroy House  
PO Box 473 Wagga Wagga 2650

**Phone: 6937 0017** Email: [tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:tribunal@wagga.catholic.org.au)



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Urana Street, PO Box 310, Jindera NSW 2642  
[bmmcalbury@gmail.com](mailto:bmmcalbury@gmail.com) Phone 02 6045 9422





# 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 - 8.00am  
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm  
Sunday - 9.30am, 5.30pm  
**Weekday Masses**  
Monday - 8.00am  
Tuesday - 7.00am (10.00am only on 2nd Tuesday of the month)  
Wednesday - 7.00am  
Thursday - 7.00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)  
Friday - 8.00am  
**Confessions**  
Prior to Masses  
Saturday after 8.00am Mass, 5.30-6.00pm  
Sunday - 5.00-5.30pm  
Thursday - 7.00pm following Novena Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Also by appointment

## 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 27...*



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.



Wagga Wagga Deanery

Chosen Youth Wagga  
St Michaels Cathedral  
Parish Centre after 5.30pm  
Mass on selected Sundays.  
Contact: (02) 6921 2164 or

Young Adults Group  
Who for: young adults  
When: 7-8pm on the second & fourth Tuesday of the month  
Contact: Parish 6962 1533

Murray Deanery

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
Youth Holy Hour 6.00pm  
Where: St Michaels Cathedral

Albury Young Adults Group  
Where: St Patrick's Parish Hall, Albury  
When: Every Wednesday Night 7-8pm  
Who for: Young Adults 18-35  
Contact: Daniel Shaw 0402 289 811

Murrumbidgee Deanery

Griffith - Sacred Heart Parish  
Where: Sacred Heart Youth Hut (white hut behind Presbytery)

Immaculate Heart of Mary Youth Group  
Where: Thurgoona Parish Centre  
When: Every 2nd Wednesday 5:30pm-7pm. Dinner provided.  
Who for: School Years 7 to 12 (high school)  
Contact: (02) 6043 2222

Youth Group  
Who for: Yrs 7-12  
When: 7-8pm on the first & third Tuesday of the month

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

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 March 1982  | Fr Richard Walter O'Donovan |
| 4 March 1989  | Mgr John Desmond Lane       |
| 6 March 1996  | Fr Edward (Tony) Fitzgerald |
| 7 March 2001  | Fr Peter O'Leary            |
| 17 March 1949 | Mgr William Slattery        |



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: March

3rd March - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The blind cannot lead the blind.** And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the teacher who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

Sirach 27:4-7 Psalm 92: 2-3,13-16  
1 Corinthians 15: 54-58 Luke 6:39-45

10th March - First Sunday of Lent

**As a family, talk about ways in which trust has been built among members of the family.** Observe how being trustworthy in small matters enables us to trust one another in more important matters. Offer specific examples if possible (e.g., children who establish their responsibility in household tasks can be granted greater independence and freedom to choose how they perform these tasks). Today's Gospel shows us how Jesus trusted God in all things. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 4:1-13. Discuss how Jesus showed his trust in God when he resisted the devil's temptations. Invite family members to name times when they have trusted

God in matters small or large. Write a family prayer together. You might write the prayer so that each line begins with a letter in the word "trust." Pray this prayer together.

Deuteronomy 26:4-10  
Psalm 91:1-2,10-11,12-13,14-15  
Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13

17th March - Second Sunday of Lent

**As you gather as a family, count the number of pieces of equipment in your home that produce sound:** televisions, radios, CD players, computers, video games, etc. Observe if sometimes more than one piece of equipment is playing simultaneously and how this might affect communication. Discuss the question: What is it like to try to talk with one another when this equipment is on?

Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 9:28-36. Consider whether the noise and pace of your family life allows family members opportunities for quiet prayer. During Lent, it may be appropriate for your family to choose a time for quiet in the household by turning off televisions, radios, and CD players. Consider whether your family would like to establish such a time during this Season of Lent and suggest that it might allow you the opportunity to listen more attentively to one another and to find time for quiet prayer. Spend a few such moments as a family, asking God to help you listen well to one another and to Jesus.

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18 Psalm 27:1,7-8,8-9,13-14  
Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 9:28b-36

24th March - Third Sunday of Lent

**Gather your family and show a spring flower in bloom.** Recall that in the fall this flower was a dry bulb (if a flower bulb is available, show this as well). Talk about the hopefulness and patience shown by those who plant flower bulbs in the fall in the hope that they will bloom in the spring. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 13:1-9. Compare the parable of the barren fig tree to your discussion about spring flowers. Consider the patience and hopefulness that God has with us as he works with us, calling us to return to him when we sin. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God for his patience and hopefulness towards us. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm.

Exodus 3:1-8a,13-15 Psalm 103:1-4,6-7,8,11  
1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 Luke 13:1-9

31st March - Fourth Sunday of Lent

**As you gather as a family, talk about the words and phrases you speak to one another when angry.** Identify words or phrases that reflect jealousy towards one another. Talk about why we sometimes feel jealousy towards one another. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 15:1-3,11-32. Talk about why the older brother is jealous of the younger brother. Identify words that the family members in the parable might say to one another to begin to heal their broken relationships. Make a family commitment to say these types of words and phrases to one another with greater frequency. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Joshua 5:9a,10-12 Psalm 34:2-7  
2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3,11-32



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