



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of

Wagga Wagga

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FREE

MAY 2019

## inside

CHRISM MASS 5

ANZAC DAY MASS 15

DIOCESE YOUTH 22

MASS TIMES 26

"Under her protection,  
may Australia be  
granted harmony,  
justice and peace."

## Our Lady Help of Christians

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# Plenary, Youth and Our Lady's Feast

Archbishop Christopher Prowse - Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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## UPDATE ON PLENARY COUNCIL

We have been informed that at the completion of the first phase of our Plenary Council journey (6 March 2019) the response from Australian Catholics has indeed been very encouraging. Many thousands of submissions have been registered.

Given the particular difficult times in which we exercise our precious faith, such a healthy response is surely a sign of the Holy Spirit calling us all to a deeper conversion.

So until Pentecost (9 June 2019) the National Centre for Pastoral Research collates and analyses all responses. A draft preliminary National Report will be developed and emerging themes identified. After Pentecost a new Listening and Discernment stage will be launched.

You may wish to visit the Plenary Council website to learn more of this exciting journey we have now begun. It is: [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au).

I am particularly grateful for the pastoral energy and generosity I have observed in the groups that have gathered in the diocese over these months. Thank you.

## YOUTH – “CHRIST IS ALIVE”

No matter what conclusions our Plenary Council meetings articulate there is always a concern about the handing on of the Catholic faith to our youth.

As I have mentioned many times before, I really see the Holy Spirit in the great youth initiatives in the diocese.

In recent times, these impulses of grace in the youth cultures of today have been given great foundations in the recent Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on youth. It is called Christ is Alive (25 March 2019)

Pope Francis explains that he allowed himself to be “inspired by the wealth of reflections and conversations of the Synod” on young people, celebrated in the Vatican

“Given the particular difficult times in which we exercise our precious faith, such a healthy response is surely a sign of the Holy Spirit calling us all to a deeper conversion.”

in October 2018.

In synthesis, the document scrutinises the scriptures regarding young people, meditates on Jesus as ever young, proclaims the “now” of youth, and announces the great message for all youth that they are loved, saved and animated by Jesus alive now.

The Pope then writes on establishing faith paths for youth, comments on youth ministry in schools and parishes, and concludes by making observations about vocations and discernment in life.

I hope many people read this Papal

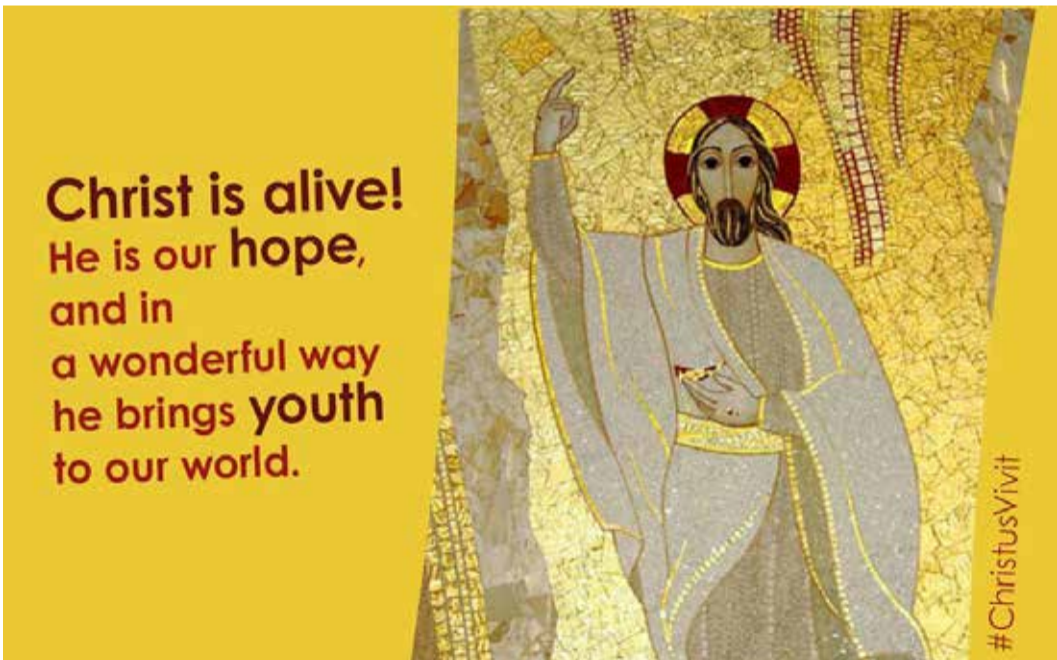
document that summarises so much of what the Pope heard over the Synod and adds his own wisdom and faith. Seeing how young people respond to him both at Rio de Janeiro and Panama World Youth Days, may I encourage young people, in particular, to read this document in stages and discuss each section together. You will not be disappointed!

## EASTER SEASON AND OUR LADY'S FEAST

Throughout the month of May we continue the Easter Liturgical season. The Readings of Scripture at Mass are so rich with the accounts of so many encountering the Risen Lord Jesus. Let us too be caught up in the living Word of God as Jesus enters deeply into us afresh as His Resurrection community. We are in great need of his Grace in these “swirling” times!

On 24th May we celebrate the Patron of Australia, Our Lady Help of Christians. May we consecrate our diocese and our communities again to the protection of Mary, the first amongst the faithful.

**May the Risen Lord bless you always.  
Please spare a prayer for me  
sometimes.**



## Prayer Intention for May - Pray with Pope Francis

**The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity**  
That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.

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



**Pope's Worldwide  
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APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP OF PRAYER

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

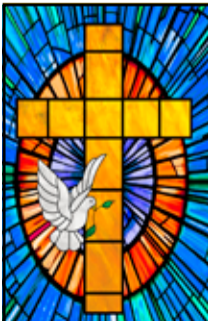
In the final years of preparation before the year 2000, St. John Paul II addressed the Church in Africa in the document *Ecclesia in Africa* and urged them to remain rooted in hope amid such turmoil.

*"I exhort all God's People in Africa to accept with open hearts the message of hope...Despite the mainly negative picture which today characterizes numerous parts of Africa, and despite the sad situations being experienced in many countries, the Church has the duty to affirm vigorously that these difficulties can be overcome. She must strengthen in all Africans hope of genuine liberation. In the final analysis, this confidence is based on the Church's awareness of God's promise, which assures us that history is not closed in upon itself but is open to God's Kingdom."*

*Therefore, there is no justification for despair or pessimism when we think about the future of both Africa and any other part of the world."*

However bleak the situation may get in Africa, the Church firmly believes that she can be a sign of hope in the darkness, uniting together all those of good will to work together for the greater good of humanity. The future is not yet written and does not have to be filled with sadness. Through the power of God, the joy of the Gospel can penetrate even the hardest of hearts.

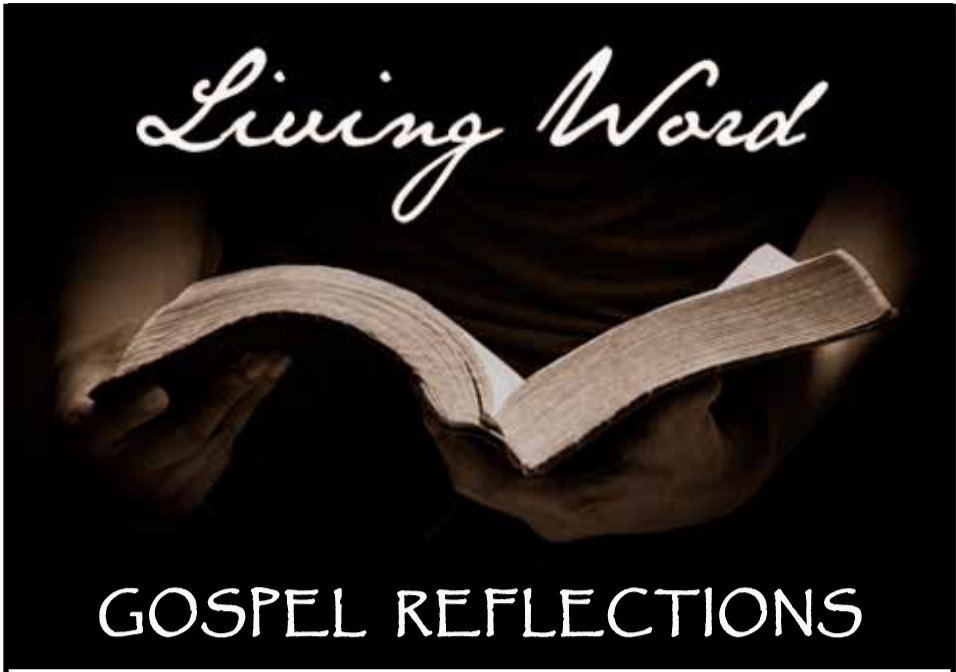
This month, may we join our prayers to the Holy Father and pray for the Church in Africa, that through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



## 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.



# - A PR Disaster -

**Approaching a Federal election with pollsters and bookmakers having a field day, this Gospel includes another one of those passages that prove that Jesus really needs a good media manager.** At various times, Jesus seems about to take an unassailable campaign lead when he goes and blows it.

John’s Gospel records several ‘PR’ disasters including cleaning the temple - reaching out to outcasts and later in the chapter an unpalatable ‘Bread of Life’ speech which seriously threatens most of his hard-core supporters.

Over the next few chapters, as his enemies close in, he sits down with his closest friends and amongst other things says “I AM the way, the truth, and the life.” Note the use of the definite article ‘the’ as in “the way, the truth, the life.” Not ‘a way, a truth, a life”. Which was a massive problem as the Emperor was seen to be a god who offered salvation.

Then Jesus completely blows it “No one comes to the Father except through me.” Surely at this point, his group needs to get a new leader or face annihilation.

In this age and in this nation, Jesus is asking his followers whether we really trust him. Are we ready to follow him regardless of what public opinion, the corporate elite or the media thought controllers insist?

**Jesus is not running for election; he is already King will you follow him?**

## 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught

you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

## John 14:6-14

Jesus said to Thomas:

‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’

‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him ‘and you still do not know me?

‘To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”?’

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.

Whatever you ask for in my name I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask for anything in my name, I will do it.’

# Our Lady Help of Christians

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800’s.

**Napoleon Bonaparte had jailed Pius VI who died in jail. When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainebleau.**

The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary.

The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome.

Twelve months later the Pope decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed except for one brief year until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the faith alive.

Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness.

St Mary’s Cathedral was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry, who arrived in Sydney in 1820 and assumed responsibility for the planning and initial construction of the Cathedral.

When Australia became the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness, it became the first country to have a mother-cathedral under the same title.

The altar at St. Mary’s, with its statue of Mary Help of Christians, was erected as a memorial to Fr. Therry’s name.

The statue of Mary, Help of Christians, stands in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart in the Cathedral.

The Church has traditionally focussed on two aspects of Our Lady’s help on this feast day.

Firstly, upon the role of Our Lady’s intercession in the fight against sin.

Secondly, Our Lady is one who assists Christians as a community, through her intercession, in fighting against anti-Christian forces.

In the Opening Prayer for Our Lady Help of Christians, the Church prays that through Our Lady’s intercession God will “grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens”, so that “under her protection Australia may be granted harmony, justice and peace”.

*Mary Help of Christians patroness of Australia and of the Military Ordinariate*

*Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.*

*Through her prayers and under her protection, may the light of Christ shine over our land.*

*May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.*

*Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.*

*Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.*

*We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

*Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.*



## TRIBUTE: Fr Cornelius Croese

passed away last week, so you might keep him in prayer.  
Details of his life will be published in the next edition.

# 4th Annual NACF Conference

Over 300 keen and enthusiastic mums, dads, young adults, teenagers, babies, toddlers and religious attended the 4th Annual National Association of Catholic Families Conference from 12th to 14th April.

**by Mark and Jenny Mannering** - Presidents NACF Wagga Wagga with contributions by Kate Bowen Wagga Wagga

**Held at the Great Aussie Resort just north of Albury, the conference provided a smorgasbord of spiritual talks, fun activities, dancing, great food and fellowship.** All-night adoration was arranged in a specially-designed cabin, and free-time on the Saturday afternoon included fun activities such as feeding June the ostrich at the resort, canoe trip, craft sessions, marriage enrichment workshop and more.

As an emergency stand-in for a late-arriving Bishop Richard Umbers, Fr Joel Wallace celebrated the opening mass on the Friday evening at St Francis de Sales Church of the Pioneers near the resort. Bishop Umbers arrived on the Saturday morning, celebrated Mass, then gave an inspiring talk on standing firm in the faith, despite all the persecutions, and helping others to see the Way, the Truth and the Light.

The beautiful Immaculata Sisters were in attendance for the whole weekend, and gave some emotional sharings on the Rosary, as well as helping out with the younger children and teenagers. John Florio, Lewis Cassidy, Mary Clare Meney and Angela van der Horst kept the younger children occupied with some great games, activities and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Members of the Culture Project also ran sessions with teenagers on thinking and praying about the big picture aspects of their lives, who we are, who we want to become and how to provide service to the world in the light of our Lord's teaching.

In the main first-up presentation, Helenka Pasztetnik, currently undergoing a PhD in Moral Theology and lecturing at Notre Dame University, suggested that we shouldn't let our children develop a purely secular imagination. She said that from a very young age, a child is an

empty vessel and so will easily be filled with either Sponge Bob Squarepants or Saint Francis, depending on what we expose that child to. Helenka also explained that when trying to increase our or their faith, start with the body first, not just the intellect. Physically attend more masses, kneel in prayer, fill the eyes with sacred images, protect the ears from profane music, practise self-control with food, phone and body, and you can then pave the way for a stronger faith for you and your children.

Dr John Poon, a Catholic psychologist, gave the married couples some valuable insights into a successful marriage. He particularly urged men to listen to their wives empathically and jokingly reminded the wives to make sure their husband's bellies were full before important conversations were attempted. He also cautioned that marriages can deteriorate if they are taken for granted, so keep vigilant, keep talking and keep the magic alive.

Charbel and Christine Raish, a young married couple with seven children and founders of Parousia Media, gave an inspiring talk suggesting that making decisions involving the family was a lot easier if you always keep your eye on the prize, which of course is Heaven, both for our spouse and our children. Christine in particular was very firm about having date nights with your spouse and discussing together and trying new approaches if something isn't working.

Anna Krohn spoke of the elevation and sanctification of work that has always existed in the Catholic psyche. We need to focus on offering up our work to God and to realise that most forms of work are actually serving God's purpose, especially if done well. As for the apparent monotony of some



Top left: Anna Krohn delivering her talk.  
Top: Fun was had by all at the bush dance.



Left: Tim and Jenni Goulding travelled from New Zealand.  
Below left: The Immaculata Sisters discussing the Rosary.  
Below: Bishop Umbers spoke about standing firm in faith.  
Bottom of page: The closing photo of the conference.



housework, we should congratulate ourselves on a job well done, no matter how mundane or repetitive it may seem. Anna also emphasised the need to rest and to contemplate and be silent on the seventh day. Many young people don't know how to rest on the Sabbath with

sport, shopping and sometimes paid work. Anna suggested spending time relaxing as a family, and in the week prior to Sunday to plan enriching family activities that can be done together on Sundays.

*continued on page 23...*



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# Homily - Chrism Mass 2019

**Homily - Chrism Mass 2019**  
**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**  
**Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn**  
**Apostolic Administrator of Wagga Wagga**  
**Monday 15 April 2019 St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest**  
**Tuesday 16 April 2019 St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga**

**Readings:**  
Isaiah 61: 1-3, 6, 8-9  
Apocalypse 1:5-8  
Gospel Luke 4:16-21  
**There can be no doubt that the Catholic Church in Australia, this Holy Week, finds itself afresh on the hill of Calvary.**

There is really no need to repeat the toxic societal context in which we find ourselves in Australia today – we know it and we feel it. Yet, on the other hand, there is no need denying it either.

Since we do find ourselves afresh on Calvary, let us consider therefore the company we are keeping. There were so few at the foot of the Calvary Cross on the first Good Friday. It was very much a “Marian” companionship. There was Mary the mother of Jesus. There was Mary Magdalen, St John, the apostle Jesus loved and some others. Let us not be like “the others” who fled or absented themselves “for fear of the Jews.”

As Missionary Disciples, we must approach this moment in our Catholic history here in Australia with faith not fear.

Let us all choose faith (not fear) in this Chrism Mass when we are all together being led by Jesus and Mary.

In this precious moment, let us listen to the “Calvary” words of the Lord Jesus: his last words on the Cross.

1. “Father forgive them.” (Luke 23/34)
2. “Today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23/43)
3. “Behold your son...behold your mother.” (John 19/26, 27)
4. “My God, My God why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15/34)
5. “I thirst.” (John 19/28)
6. “It is finished.” (John 19/30)
7. “Father into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23/46)

These final words of Jesus are all words of surrender, trust and forgiveness. Let us never forget that Jesus embraced Calvary by walking defencelessly to the Cross.

Nothing is reported, in direct speech, of Mary’s words at the Calvary Cross. Presumably, she wailed tears of great grief witnessing her son’s torture and death. Her posture would have been as always, “treasuring and pondering” (Luke 2/19) all that God was doing.

As mentioned, the Apostles with the exception of John, were absent or distant from this moment due to fear.

Where were they? What were they thinking?

In their fear perhaps they recalled some of the words that Jesus spoke to them in the three years of their discipleship.

“Will you go too?...Where will we go you

have the words of everlasting life?” (John 6/66-69)

They may have recalled Peter walking on the water to Jesus. As soon as Peter took his eyes of Jesus he began to sink. (Matthew 14/28-31)

Poignantly, there is no mention in the Scriptures of the other Apostles in the boat encouraging Peter to keep walking on the water by keeping his eyes on the Lord. Once his eyes left the Lord he began to sink shamelessly.

However, we know after the Resurrection and Pentecost the fear of the Apostles was transformed into great faith. They were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2/42) indicate that the early Church quickly gathered around 4 pillars of stability – The teaching of the Apostles, the Fellowship, the Breaking of the Bread and the Prayers.

Let us now take a time leap to a more recent Australian example of faith rather than fear amongst the priests of our region.

As Anzac Day approaches I wish to take the example of a great Australian priest from Southern New South Wales. In the adversity of just over 100 years ago, he showed great Priestly Holiness while surrounded by the terror of war – the First World War.

I’m referring to Fr Thomas Mullins, former Parish Priest of Ardlethan and Barmedman. (Near Griffith & Leeton)

He was born in Limerick Ireland in 1876 and died in 1939 of an ongoing illness related to Malaria. He is buried in the Ardlethan cemetery. Fr Mullins arrived in Australia as a young priest in 1900. Travelling around his geographically huge parish as the Parish Priest of Barmedman and Ardlethan helped him develop into a great horseman. It was unsurprising, therefore, that he volunteered in May 1915 to be a chaplain for the 12th Light Horse Regiment. He served in Gallipoli. He was also a member of the 5th Light Horse Regiment, during the Palestine campaign, until Armistice.

As a “First World War” chaplain he showed outstanding leadership. He was mentioned four times in dispatches. In his Military Cross citation, he was famously given (January 1918), he was described as showing “great fearlessness and was right in the fighting line...he never left the trenches.” He was described as “a gallant soul and valiant.”

He left us all, even today, a fascinating ongoing legacy. He brought back to Australia, seeds from the ancient olive trees of Gethsemane in the Holy Land. He planted those seeds at Ardlethan where there is now an enormous olive tree. We

thank Monsignor Kevin Barry-Cotter who took cuttings from that tree and planted them outside the West Wyalong Church. Those cuttings have now become a very substantial olive tree as well. They are continuing reminders for us of the gallantry, bravery and fearlessness of this great Priest War Chaplain.

And now we arrive at our present moment, 100 years later, the Chrism Mass in 2019. As mentioned previously, we are at a “Calvary” moment in our own Church. It is not in the context of war but the context of the sex abuse scandal and all that it revealed.

Although we are here in 2019, sacramentally, we are back on the hill of Calvary. We know that the Mass is the re-presentation of the Last Super that sacramentally makes present today the sacrifice of Calvary with Jesus our High Priest and Victim.

So in this moment of great fragility, let us hear Jesus’s final words. Let us respond in faith (not fear) and stand alongside Mary the mother of God, Mary Magdalene, John and the others.

Let us recall – keeping our eyes on Jesus lest we sink, the words of the Apostles when they say “to whom else shall we go, you Lord have the words of everlasting life.”

Let us be united in devotion to “the

teaching of the Apostles, the Fellowship and the Breaking of the Bread and the prayers.”

Let us pray in this Mass, with the great Priests, Religious, and Laity who have gone before us and showed fearlessness in their times of trouble (like Fr Thomas Mullins). Let us say with St Thomas at the time of Pentecost, “We believe help our unbelief.” (Mark 9/23-25) Let us truly believe, paraphrasing tonight’s Gospel, that “these Scriptural texts are being fulfilled today even as you listen.”

Let us truly believe that the Lord continues to use us to “bind up hearts that are broken” as proclaimed in the First Reading and let us always exchange “despondency with praise.”

May I leave you with some inspiring words from one of our patristic greats – the Cappadocian Father: St Gregory of Nazianzus (330-390). As mentioned in a recent excerpt from the Second Reading in our Office of Readings, he said in a sermon, “...we must sacrifice ourselves to God each day and in everything we do, accepting all that happens to us for the sake of the Word, imitating his passion by our sufferings, and honouring his blood by shedding our own. We must be ready to be crucified.” I ask my brothers to please now stand and renew our Priestly Promises.

## Family Group Formation

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June



Fr Traynor CP, from Sydney and Mary and Dennis Morris, directors South from Canberra will be here to speak to interested Parishioners from Sacred Heart Parish, Koorungal and any other person, group or Parish Priest from the diocese who may like to form a Family Group/s.

In 1972, Father Peter McGrath CP, (now deceased) was appointed to the tiny parish of St Anthony of the Fields, Terrey Hills, an outer suburb of Sydney where only 30 people gathered for Sunday Eucharist. The congregation grew and by 1973 over 1000 people were attending.

Faced with expansion, Father Peter formed Family Groups to preserve the original community spirit where People knew each other by name, shared each other’s joys and sorrows. The Family Group Movement, though started in the Catholic Church has now bridged the gap and is ecumenical being Anglican, Uniting and Baptist Churches. School Communities are now starting School Based Family Groups. The Passionist Family Group Movement is

international being in Australia, New Zealand, USA, UK and Ireland.

In all countries it is seen to be a relevant way to build Christian community and prepare for the future.

Fr Peter’s dream was “A Family for All” ie Friendship, Belonging, Activities, Ministry, Respect, Understanding etc which has been extremely beneficial to the Sacred Heart Parish; much encouraged by Fr Wilf Plunkett, Fr Bernie Thomas and Fr John Baptiste.

**Program:**  
Sat 6.30pm  
*Gather for 7.00pm Dinner at Function Room – Sportsman Hotel (own cost)*  
Sun 9.00am  
*Mass to be celebrated by Fr Traynor at Sacred Heart Parish, Koorungal*  
Sun 10.30am  
*Morning Tea in church foyer*  
Sun 11.00am  
*Fr Traynor will speak in the Church on “Belonging”*  
Sun 12.30pm  
*Please bring your own lunch.*

**RSVP:**  
by 7th June Margaret McAuliffe  
Ph: 02 6925 2364  
Email: mimcauliffe@hotmail.com

**by Fr Bernie Thomas**

While there were practical suggestions on how to deal with some topics, I simply note the topics raised. The way the suggestions are implemented is the subject of the next stage: the listening and discerning stage.

The initial response to what has been received so far in this diocese, is that much of the perceived change centres around pastoral practice,

This depends more on the attitude of people concerned than on Laws and directives. It would be fair to say the next stage of the discussion is to discern how the church needs to change to bring about a change in

The following graph highlights the number of comments mentioned in the submissions to the Diocesan Plenary Council email. They are grouped under various headings. Following the graph is a detailed summary of all the submissions received, under the same headings.

[illegible]

# THE PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY IN 2019

Ash Wednesday marks the close of the Listening and Dialogue stage.

6  
March

National Centre for Pastoral Research collates and analyses all responses. A draft preliminary National Report is developed, with emergent themes for the Plenary Council identified.

Pentecost marks the launch of the next stage of preparation – *Listening and Discernment* – with the themes for national discernment announced.

9  
June

April  
May

Applications and selection of Working Group Chairs and members, with one working group per theme developing Council papers for discussion at the first session of the Plenary Council.

First meeting of Working Groups and local small group discernment to begin.

July

June

Nominations open for the lay delegates of the Plenary Council 2020.

Sept

National Centre for Pastoral Research will publish Diocesan qualitative reports.

October

April  
2020

At Easter, draft Plenary Council papers discerned by the Working Group become available for download and discussion.

The first session of the Plenary Council 2020 will be held in Adelaide on October 4th - 11th, 2020.

4-11  
Oct 2020

May  
2021

The second session of the Plenary Council will be held in Sydney.

PlenaryCouncil2020  
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...



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# News from the Serra Club

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

*by Andrew Kennedy - Serra Club, Wagga Wagga*

**Hello to all supporters and friends of Serra and all who have taken time to read this article.**

March saw Serra Wagga Wagga take a drive down to Jindera along with our seminarians to a visit at the Saint Mary Mckillop school.

Father Byrnes began with Mass then the Seminarians were split up in twos and gave short talks to the different age groups of kids about their own personal vocation story. The students were very engaging and friendly to all.

As the talks were taking place the Serra members who attended were busy working the barbeques in readiness for the onslaught of 160 hungry kids attacking. We were made most welcome and were impressed with the culture of the school.

Some good news has come through regarding our fundraising dinner to

be held in September when we have Archbishop Julian Porteous from Hobart booked as our special guest speaker. Looks like Friday the 6th September will be the date to ‘lock this one in Eddie.’ Give us a ring to reserve your early bird booking.

That’s it for me for this month. 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.**

**Serra International Objectives and Purposes**

- \* To pray for, to foster and to promote vocations to the Ministerial Priesthood and Permanent Diaconate of the Catholic Church as a particular vocation of service and to support priests and deacons in their ministries;
- \* To encourage and affirm vocations to the consecrated life in the Catholic Church;
- \* To assist its members to recognise and respond, in their own lives, to God’s call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.



*Some of the Serra Club members and seminarians attending Saint Mary Mckillop Jindera.*

# The Women's Life Centre calls out for help

Together recently received this heartfelt plea from Peta Evans, the Director of the Women's Life Centre in Albury.

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

It has come to our attention in the last few days that after reviewing the Women's Life Centre and Esencia's overall financial position we have discovered that we are now running at a significant loss.

Despite our efforts at fundraising through the extended apostolate of the Esencia Cafe and the increasing sales of the cafe over the last 2.5 years, we have not been able to offset the increasing costs of rent, utilities and the day to day running of both the Cafe and the Life Centre.

When we began the Life Centre six years ago, we were largely supported by generous donors from our Catholic and Christian community. Those donations, however, have over the years been greatly reduced.

We are very thankful for the very

faithful supporters who have either given one-off donations, are regular contributors or those who actively support Esencia by their cooking, craft donations and visits to enjoy the Esencia food and coffee.

**We have experienced many moments of God's grace working powerfully through the Life Centre and Esencia when mothers have chosen to keep their babies, women and families have found support and advocacy for their crisis situations, faith conversions, marriages and hope and healing through the discovery of God's mercy and forgiveness.** There have also been the intangible benefits that many in our community have experienced through the contact with our life-giving volunteers.

Our Centre is truly unique, and it would be a sad situation if we were forced to



close either the Cafe or the Life Centre. Both truly have their place in the work of building up a 'culture of life'. We know that sometimes it can be hard to donate money if you don't get to see the results or you are concerned that the money won't be used for the correct purposes. We can assure you that we only employ two people to cover the one management position. The rest of the staff are volunteers who give many hours of their life each week to keep the apostolates running. We have always believed in the importance of the physical setting of the Life Centre to be a place that people can come to, experience a peaceful setting and encounter the truth about life and love in a beautiful environment.

We provide so much for women that other services do not give in order that women are able to continue their pregnancy. These include: free pregnancy testing, face to face and phone counselling, advocacy for migrants or those financially compromised, to obtain supportive medical help, non-diagnostic ultrasounds, ongoing pregnancy support, material support and abortion grief and pregnancy loss counselling - all within the context of a life-affirming environment. We find many of our clients require ongoing support, and one client can take many hours over weeks,

months and even years to become stable in order to look after themselves and their children.

If it be possible please donate to the Life Centre, this Lent or Easter. If you are able please consider becoming a weekly or monthly donor by means of direct debit. It's amazing how even \$10 every week can help to cover costs. We are trying to raise \$10,000 and hopefully stay viable so that we can continue to provide this support into the future.

Our bank details are:  
Women's Life Centre Inc.  
BSB: 640000  
Acc: 613574S9  
(for those that are not Hume bank customers you may need to substitute the S for a 5)

May God bless you all this Easter and please keep our Life apostolate in your prayers.

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



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# Catholic Mission called upon to support Sri Lanka through their "darkest hours"

The international Pontifical Mission Societies has called upon its agency in Australia, Catholic Mission, to support recovery efforts in Sri Lanka in the wake of the Easter Sunday terror attacks.

**Joining other church agencies in responding to the devastating bombings, which have killed over 250 people, Catholic Mission last week launched an appeal to supporters to help the nation heal.**

National Director of Catholic Mission, Father Brian Lucas, said the mission organisation's focus would be on rebuilding the Sri Lankan Catholic Church infrastructure and parish communities as part of the long recovery process.

'The Pontifical Mission Societies played a significant role in building the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka in the past,' he said. 'Under tragic circumstances we are now called upon to be there to help rebuild once again.'

'There is a great deal of need in Sri Lanka at this distressing time, but it is encouraging to see so many groups and individuals uniting in their support of those affected by these terrible events.'

'Catholic Mission's role is to assist the Catholic community in Sri Lanka to



People gathered outside the heavily guarded St Anthony's Shrine - Getty Images

its feet by helping to fully restore their places of worship and other pastoral needs as required.'

Fr Lucas' counterpart in Sri Lanka, Fr Basil Rohan Fernando, outlined some of those needs in a statement this week. 'As national director, I am trying to launch programmes to provide immediate relief to children and families affected by the bombing and to provide long-term trauma counselling and spiritual care for victims and their families,' he said.

'We appeal to you to come forward and assist us in carrying out these programmes, however you can. We are taking every opportunity to be of help and support to the affected in every way possible.'

'We kindly look forward to your generous assistance in our darkest hours.'

**Supporters can make a contribution to efforts in Sri Lanka through Catholic Mission's website at [www.catholicmission.org.au/srilanka](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/srilanka)**



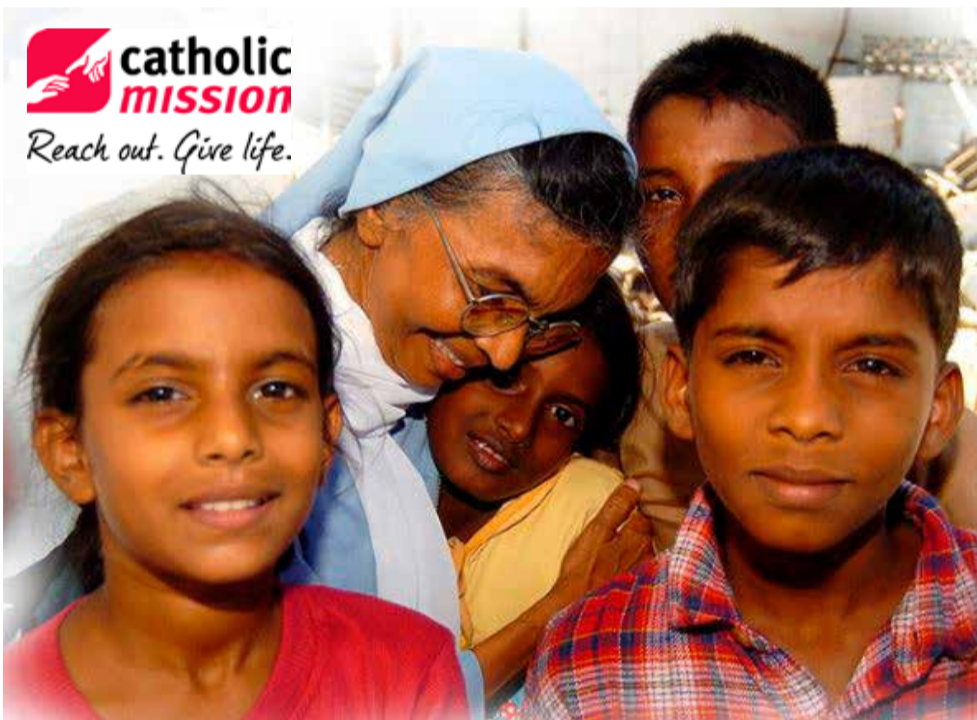
Fr Basil Rohan Fernando

All funds raised will support critical infrastructure repair for churches targeted in the bombings, such as the 175-year-old St Anthony's Shrine in Colombo and St Sebastian's in Negombo.

'We feel an enormous sense of sorrow for those in Sri Lanka who will grieve the loss of their loved ones forever and we ask for your prayerful support,' said Fr Lucas in a story on Catholic Mission's website last week.

'For what is one of the world's largest networks, the global Catholic community is closely bound by our shared faith. We stand in solidarity beside our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka - from all backgrounds - as they come to terms with this tragedy and begin what must seem an unthinkable healing process.'

**Catholic Mission's role is to assist the Catholic community in Sri Lanka to its feet by helping to fully restore their places of worship and other pastoral needs as required.**



Catholic Mission's

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For more information, please go to [catholicmission.org.au/RideAndStride](http://catholicmission.org.au/RideAndStride) today.

**Don't forget to register by 10 May 2019 to receive \$280 off your registration fee!**

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# Meet the Pallottine Sisters

This is the story of eight sisters working in Masaka, Kigali in Rwanda.



Sister Cécire

**Vocation:**

“I am Sister Cécire, 49 years from Masaka, I have three sisters and one brother.

“Not all the members of my family were so happy with my decision to become a sister – especially because I had a job that I had to leave... But I see these difficulties as a way to make my vocation stronger. I decided to join the Pallottine Sisters because I could witness the commitment of the missionary sisters, and their compassion for the poor and ordinary people. Also the life of Saint Vicent Pallotti is also impressive for me, he didn’t put limits on the help he gave to the people. This is what I liked. It is the way to thank God, to offer my life for others.

I like to find time for prayer, and also I am very glad in the moments that I can help people, especially when they can change their life (material or spiritual), for the better, I am very happy about these moments. I could have given my life in different ways, I could have had my own family and children, but it makes me happy to have no limits in my love to everybody, I feel free to help and love all people, my family is the whole community.

“I meditate on one sentence of the second chapter of the prophet Hosea: “And I will betroth you to me forever”. I am chosen by God and to be always with Him. There is another sentence from Saint Vicent Pallotti that helps

me in my prayers: “The love of Christ urges us on” When you have love you cannot be tired, you are happy to give what you have received.

**Congregation:**

“My name is Sister Bellancilla. I am the superior of the congregation in Masaka. We are eight sisters in Masaka, Kigali in Rwanda. [Sr. Angelina, Sr. Cécire, Sr. Goretti, Sr. Delphine, Sr. Josephine, Sr. Diana, Sr. Crementina and myself]. One sister is from the Congo and the others are from Rwanda, they are between 25 and 60 years. I’m the oldest sister in this community. I made my first profession in 1986.

“Young people feel attracted by our charisma. Our founder St. Vincent Pallotti was a very holy man, who helped the simple and poor people, the orphans and the sick. They are interested in joining our congregation so that afterwards they will also help care and visit the people in need. When they see the sisters they can see that we work very hard but the sisters are always very happy. We have nine novices in the second year: three from the Congo, the others from Rwanda and in the first year we have five, two from the Congo and three from Rwanda.

**Mission:** *(explained by Sister Bellancilla)*

“The sisters in Masaka are working in the health-center, others are working



Sister Bellancilla, the superior of the congregation in Masaka

in the secondary and primary school, we also attend the kindergarten and we help the orphans and the poor people. We also visit the old people in their houses. We bring them the Eucharist, sometimes help them with food as well. And we do other things.

“Our big challenges are to tend to all the needs. We know that if we have nothing to give them, the elderly, the sick and the poor people stay at home alone; there is nobody to be with them. If our house didn’t have the possibility to become a home for these people we couldn’t solve their problems.

“The other difficulty is the lack of people, like in the health-center; our sister is working there alone until now. There are so many challenges in the

“My council to the people is “to love each other”, this is the most important if we love the others as Jesus did we would not have more war in our countries. ”

health-center that other sisters became sick due to so much stress with the difficulties, obligations and problems.

“My council to the people is “to love each other”, this is the most important if we love the others as Jesus did we would not have more war in our countries. If you love your neighbour, you can’t kill him. If you have something to eat you can share with him... that is love. Then we can help sick and poor people so the most important thing to be free and happy... is to love!

“In Africa before we had big families. But now also things are changing in Rwanda. Some elderly people stay alone because their children are living in the city (Kigali) and they come here to buy a small house for their parents. They come only sometimes to look for them. So things are changing. In some families you can see the grandchildren living with the old people but some of them live alone. The children

*continued on page 11...*





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continued from page 10...

come only sometimes to give them something. But there are also elderly people alone because their children were killed during the genocide.

“Some women stay alone with their children, because the men have left the family. There are not so many families like that. But we are suffering the consequences of the war. Since the genocide some men grew up as orphans without their parents. They lost everything; they didn’t have a family or any education. This is the fruit of this trauma. They are married but they are not strong enough to handle problems.

“Today in many families there is no opportunity for a good education. Parents are there but because of the war they are not able to give formation. We try to give a good education to the children. We ask some people to organise meetings with the parents to speak with them and to give them support, even psychological support. When the children have problems we ask the parents. And we can see many problems come from the family, because the parents are not united.

“Forgiveness and reconciliation are still very important. The Church continues to organize programs to help the people in this still much needed area.

Testimonies:

“The sisters help us, when we have a problem they are always there. They care about us, they go to visit us and love us. They help us in a material and a spiritual way. They give us advice as well. And the Pallottine Sisters take care of the children at the school. Finally, in the health center, even if we don’t have any money they treat us. If they were not here, we would lack everything. The sisters are very important for us.

If we go to the hospital or to other places for treatment, we have the feeling that we are not so important, we could die waiting for treatment and nobody would care about us. The sisters are different, they show us love from the first moment we enter the place.” *Angeline Cabire, 57, widow and mother of 8 children, the youngest died.*



“I don’t know if I would survive if the sisters were not here. They help me in everything: to find a house, they brought me to the hospital, they take my children to the school and make sure we have something to eat.”

“You have seen today how they help us in the care center. We are very impressed with the work of the sisters. If somebody is sent to the sisters because there are sick people at home, the sisters come to us in our homes, nobody will do this here... There is another hospital which is not far, they could treat us but they are not taking care of us... there are two things: the actual treatment and the human aspect, the Christian dimension of love...”

*Mkasumi Mariana, she had more children, but only 6 survive.*

“I thank God who called you, Pallottine Sisters; I thank God for your vocation. I thank God for all you are doing for us, for your love to the poor and people in need, I have seen this. I met you and you came to help me.”

“I don’t know if I would survive if the sisters were not here. They help me in everything: to find a house, they brought me to the hospital, they take my children to the school and make sure we have something to eat... Probably I would die if the sisters weren’t here. I thank all the benefactors who are helping the sisters because the support to them is in turn very important for each one of us.”

I was living in a suffering part of the country, called Katagara, where we had a center for disabled people founded by a priest, I moved to Gikondo Kigali, it was a pallottine parish, and they came to visit me, I didn’t have a house, I had nothing to live... But it was God’s providence that I was living not far from the convent and they helped me. It was the second time; I got people to help me to live.” *Man in wheelchair:*



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# The hidden symbols of the Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is one of the most sacred and enduring elements in Christianity.

**Made of beeswax to represent the purity of Christ, the candle's wick signifies Christ's humanity, and the flame His Divine Nature.** It is adorned with one or more Christian symbols, often the cross to represent His redemptive sacrifice; the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet - Alpha and Omega – to signify that He is the beginning and the end; symbols of wheat and grapes, or a chalice and host, for the Eucharist - the true presence of Christ and our spiritual strength; the 12 Apostles – witnesses and scribes to the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ; and other symbols such as the Good Shepherd, the Lamb, the Sacred Heart, and the Risen Christ.

The Paschal candle is a rich symbol of our faith. It reaches its pinnacle at Easter. Each year during the Easter Vigil service on Holy Saturday night, a fire is kindled in a metal bowl, called a brazier (bray'-zhur). From the brazier comes a "new" and blessed fire that lights the Paschal candle which is carried in procession into the dark church. The "new" fire serves as an image of the Resurrection. The candle, which represents Christ himself, is placed on a special Paschal candle stand near the altar. Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle to recall the aromatic spices that were used to prepare Christ's body for the tomb, and the wounds in His hands, feet and side, which remained after His resurrection.

The Paschal candle remains in the Sanctuary on its special candle stand during the full 50 days of the Easter season, and is lit for liturgical services during that time. After Pentecost the candle will be placed next to

the baptismal font. The candle is lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized, starting with the Catechumens at the Easter Vigil service. The candle may also be used at funeral services, and placed next to the casket during a funeral Mass. At funeral services it is a reminder that the sacrament of Baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ, and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.

This candle, also called the Easter Candle, originated in the earliest days of Christianity, when evening prayer began with the lighting of a candle. This practice was probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. Historical references mention the Lucernarium, the evening prayer rite with which the early Christians began each Sunday vigil. The lighting of the candle dispelled the darkness and represented Christ – the Light of the World.

This solemn rite was carried out with even greater reverence during the Easter Vigil. In the time of Constantine we are told by the historian Eusebius that the emperor "transformed the night of the sacred Easter Vigil into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the whole city pillars of wax, so that this mystic vigil was rendered brighter than the brightest daylight."

In Italian basilicas the paschal candle stand was made of marble and designed as a permanent attachment to the ambo. Several of these candle stands still survive, as in the Basilica of San Lorenzo fuori le Mura (Saint

Lawrence outside the Walls) in Rome, which was built in the 3rd century.

By the second half of the 4th century, a hymn in praise of the candle and the Easter mystery was sung, as referenced by Saint Jerome in 384 AD. Saints Ambrose and Augustine are known to have composed these hymns of praise.


The precise use of the Paschal candle has varied over the centuries. Initially it was broken up after the Easter Vigil and fragments were given to the faithful, but from the 10th century onward it was kept in a place of honor near the Gospel until the Feast of the Ascension, 40 days after Easter. By the 12th century, it was common to inscribe the candle with the current year. Over time the candle grew in size to merit the description of "pillar". By the mid-sixteenth century, some Paschal candles weighed as much as three hundred pounds, and, after use, were melted into tapers to use at the funerals of the poor.

The word "paschal" is the equivalent

of the Greek paschs, derived from the Aramaic pashā and Hebrew pesah, meaning the passing over. In the Old Testament it refers to the night the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land, when God struck the houses of the Egyptians but left the Israelites untouched, thus "passing over" or sparing them.

With Christianity the word "paschal" took on a new meaning, referring to Our Lord's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification. These events stand at the center of our faith. God's saving plan for us was accomplished by the redemptive suffering and death of Jesus. His resurrection and glorification are our assurances of eternal life - if we follow His words and His way.

**When you next see the Paschal candle in your church, may you too think of its long and sacred past, the death and resurrection of Our Lord which it represents, and the faith, hope and eternal life it means for all of us!**



**Paschal Candle**

The Paschal candle represents **Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.**

Made of **pure beeswax**, it represents the **sinless Christ** who incarnated in the womb of His Mother.

The priest inscribes in the candle a **Cross**, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, **(1) Alpha** and **(2) Omega** 'the beginning and the end') and the current year.

**Five grains of incense** inserted into it in the form of a cross, recalling the **aromatic spices** used to anoint Our Lord's Body, and the **five wounds** in His hands, feet, and side.

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# Carmelites return to Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese

A humble, quaint old cottage surrounded by trees and wildlife in the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is now home to a new monastery of cloistered Carmelite nuns from the United States.

*Originally published in CathNews*

**The shimmering heat and dust surrounding their cottage is a helpful reminder to the sisters that they are now part of Australia and that they need to pray for the people of the region, who are battling ongoing drought.**

The Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes welcomed back members of the Carmelite order with a Pontifical High Mass on Saturday attended by nearly 500 people from across Australia.

The Carmelites had established themselves in Parkes in 1949, but merged with another group from Dulwich Hill in Sydney and moved to Varroville, southwest of Sydney, in 1987.

Wilcannia-Forbes Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE said: "I am

overjoyed that in our diocese we have a contemplative Carmel that will pray for us all day and every day – not only for our diocese, but for our nation.

"We truly have a powerhouse in our diocese and knowing that they are here and praying for us brings me so much comfort and peace. God is so good to us."

The community of nuns, who live a pure contemplative life nourished by the extraordinary form of the Mass, approached Bishop Macbeth-Green four years ago with their plan.

"After a lengthy process headed by an independent committee and with the approval of the Holy See, the nuns are ready to begin their lives in the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes, located in between Deniliquin and Mathoura," Bishop



*Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green has welcomed four Carmelites nuns to the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes (photo courtesy of Wilcannia-Forbes Diocese)*

Macbeth-Green said.

"I ask that you join with me in thanksgiving and prayer for the nuns. May their life of contemplative prayer be of much spiritual fruit for our diocese."

The sisters, all fully professed nuns who have lived the monastic Carmelite life for many years, are: Mother Mariam Joseph, Sr Frances Teresa, Sr Maria of the Incarnation and Sr Juana Teresa of Jesus. Two were born and raised in

Australia and have a particular joy in returning to their homeland after many years' absence.

The primary mission of the Carmelites, who have a strong devotion to St Joseph, is to pray and offer oblation for the Church and the world. The sisters live a life of poverty, entirely depending on the generosity of others.

**For more information about the new Carmelite monastery, visit: <http://carmeljmj.org.au/>**

# National Reconciliation Week 2019

At the heart of reconciliation is the relationship between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**To foster positive race relations, our relationship must be grounded in a foundation of truth.**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have long called for a comprehensive process of truth-telling about Australia's colonial history. Our nation's past is reflected in the present, and will continue to play out in future unless we heal historical wounds.

Today, 80 per cent of Australians believe it is important to undertake formal truth telling processes, according to the 2018 Australian Reconciliation Barometer. Australians are ready to come to terms with our history as a crucial step towards a unified future, in which we understand, value and respect each other.

Whether you're engaging in challenging conversations or unlearning and relearning what you know, this journey requires all of us to walk together with courage. This National Reconciliation Week, we invite Australians from all backgrounds

to contribute to our national movement towards a unified future.

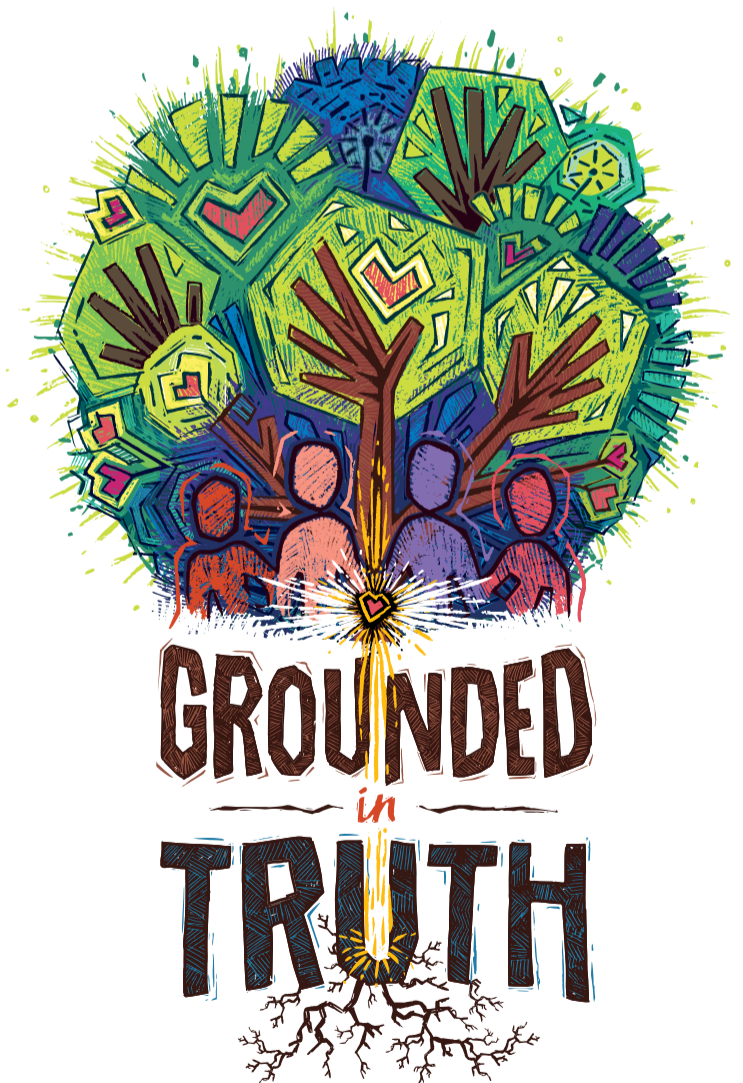
**What is National Reconciliation Week?**

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2019**  
27 MAY - 3 JUNE



**WALK TOGETHER WITH COURAGE**

To foster positive race relations, the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader community must be grounded in a foundation of truth. Whether you're engaging in challenging conversations or unlearning and relearning what you know, this journey requires all of us to walk together with courage.

Learn more at  
[reconciliation.org.au](http://reconciliation.org.au)  
**#NRW2019**

**RECONCILIATION**  
AUSTRALIA

# Ghana Missionaries to visit Wagga Wagga Diocese

The Most Reverend Alfred Agyenta, Bishop of the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga, will be visiting the Wagga Wagga Diocese in June.

**He will be accompanied by Dr Joseph Ayembilla who is the Human Development Coordinator of Bishop Agyenta's Diocesan Development Office.**

Projects that Catholic Mission is supporting in Bishop Agyenta's diocese, under the direction of Dr Joe, include the *Centre for Child Development*, the Youth Skills and Enterprise Development Centre and the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Farmer Training Centre.

In 1997, the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese set up the Centre for Child Development to protect child rights and contribute to sustainable community development in the Upper East Region. The CCD not only provides shelter, food, healthcare and education for vulnerable children from across the large diocese, but it also seeks to reintegrate children from the streets back into their families and home communities.

Driven by poverty, children travel from the rural north to live on the streets in the urban south where they may earn enough to eat by working as head porters (carrying small loads on their heads in the marketplace in exchange for money) or selling food. As the capital of the region, Bolgatanga is generally the first town these

children go to on their journey south.

In the Upper East Region, high rates of youth unemployment and underemployment,30 combined with large numbers of young people who have never attended school, mean children in the area are at greater risk of living on the streets, taking dangerous jobs, and enduring tough working conditions. These children may also be vulnerable to exploitation or trafficking.

## Youth Skills and Enterprise Development Centre

Youth homelessness and a lack of training and education for young people in the Upper East Region of Ghana is a big challenge, with many flow-on effects contributing to community disadvantage and poverty. Without the right skills and education, many young people in the region are unable to find employment. For young women, the situation is often worsened, and their health and development harmed, when they are forced into early marriage.

Addressing the youth skills shortage and helping to keep children and young people off the streets is an urgent need in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. Seeing this need, the Diocesan Human Development Office of Navrongo-Bolgatanga established



*The Most Reverend Alfred Agyenta, Bishop of the Diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga*

the Youth Development Centre.

The Centre is not only a training facility offering courses in fish farming, piggery, poultry, general agribusiness management, entrepreneurship and hospitality, but it is also aiming to create employment opportunities for locals through setting up a restaurant open to the public. With a view to being self-sustaining, the Centre will generate further income by raising and selling livestock and fish.

## Navrongo-Bolgatanga Farmer Training Centre

The Farmer Training Centre (FTC) is located in Pusu-Namongo, in the Talensi District of Upper East Region of Ghana and operates in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. The diocese stretches across a large rural landscape, with most of its population depending on agriculture for income. Throughout Ghana, government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture are sent to rural locations to aid farmers. This includes training on improving farming practices to become more sustainable and increase yields.

In Ghana, the ratio of officials to farmers is 1:3000;31 that is for every 3,000 farmers, there is only one government official to provide the training. This ratio worsens in rural areas such as the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese. In 2003, the Diocese established the FTC to help supplement existing government services. While serving the whole community, the Centre focuses on helping marginalised and vulnerable people, such as female-headed households (widows, single mothers), orphans, abandoned children,



*Dr Joseph Ayembilla, Human Development Coordinator*

people with disability and the elderly.

Over the years, however, due to irregular and insufficient funds, the FTC has not been able to maintain its equipment and infrastructure. Although the Centre has always generated modest income through hospitality and agribusiness, these funds have not been enough to sustain itself and its community outreach activities.

Exact venues and times for parishioners and others interested to hear from Bishop Agyenta and Dr Joseph about their work are yet to be confirmed.

**However, they will be in Griffith on Friday 21 June, Wagga Saturday 22 June and Albury Sunday 23 June.**

**Watch your local church bulletins for exact venues and times, once confirmed.**

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# ANZAC Day Mass at St Michael's Cathedral

The annual ANZAC Day Mass was held at St Michael's Cathedral prior to the annual ANZAC Day March.

**The RAAF provided a guard of honour at the Mass and the drummer and bugler were provided by the Army.**

Special guests included Deputy Prime Minister the Hon Michael McCormack, Member for Wagga Wagga Dr Joe McGirr, the Mayor of Wagga Wagga Mr Greg Conkey OAM, as well as RAAF and Army leadership.

The Mass was well-attended by over 200 people, supported by the Cathedral Choir.



Concelebrants were Mgr Michael Burgess and Fr Kevin O'Reilly. Fr O'Reilly spoke of the courage and bravery of those in the past as well as current personnel serving in a variety of locations worldwide.

He likened it to the present day Australian who lives that same way in generosity, courage and bravery, making special mention of the volunteer life-savers in Victoria who recently lost their lives attempting to rescue someone in need.



*Above: Members of the Australian Air Force Cadets - 332 City of Wagga Wagga Squadron stand at the altar.*

*Left: The bugler performs from the balcony.*

*Right: Hon Michael McCormack MP (Member for Riverina and Deputy Prime Minister), members of the RAAF and Mr Greg Conkey OAM, Mayor of Wagga Wagga*



## *A Day of Prayer & Reflection*

**Saturday 18 May, 2019**

## Sacred Heart Parish, North Albury

*Theme: Encountering St Hildegard of Bingen  
Woman of Vision & Hope*



The *Day of Prayer & Reflection* will be a time to reflect on the life and teaching, music and art of Hildegard of Bingen a 12th century abbess, visionary, musician, artist, author and lover of creation. We will look at the relevance of Hildegard's life and teaching for our world today.

**Date:** Saturday 18 May 2019  
**Time:** 10 am - 3.30 pm  
**Venue:** Sacred Heart Parish Hall North Albury  
**Cost:** Donation  
**BYO Lunch** Tea & Coffee provided  
**Presented by:** *Breath of Life* Team  
 Margaret Walsh pbvm & Katherine Klapdor  
**RSVP by 13 May:**  
 Catherine Cutler 0419 518 791 / Cheryl Ryan 0402 147 340  
 or Sacred Heart Parish Office, Albury 02 6025 1516

**Breath of Life Ministry, Diocese of Wagga Wagga**  
**Co-ordinator: Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm PH 02 6971 7140**  
**margaretwalsh1915@gmail.com**



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# Catholicism: The Pivotal Players

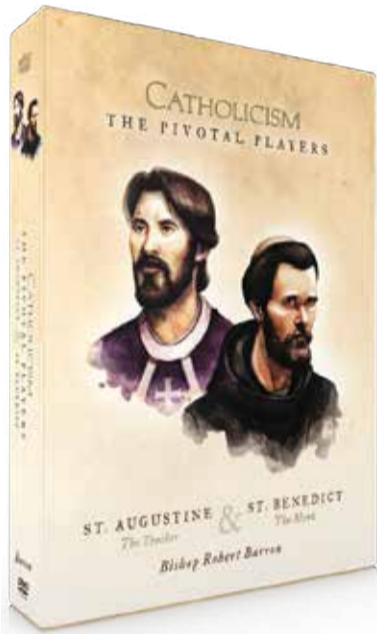
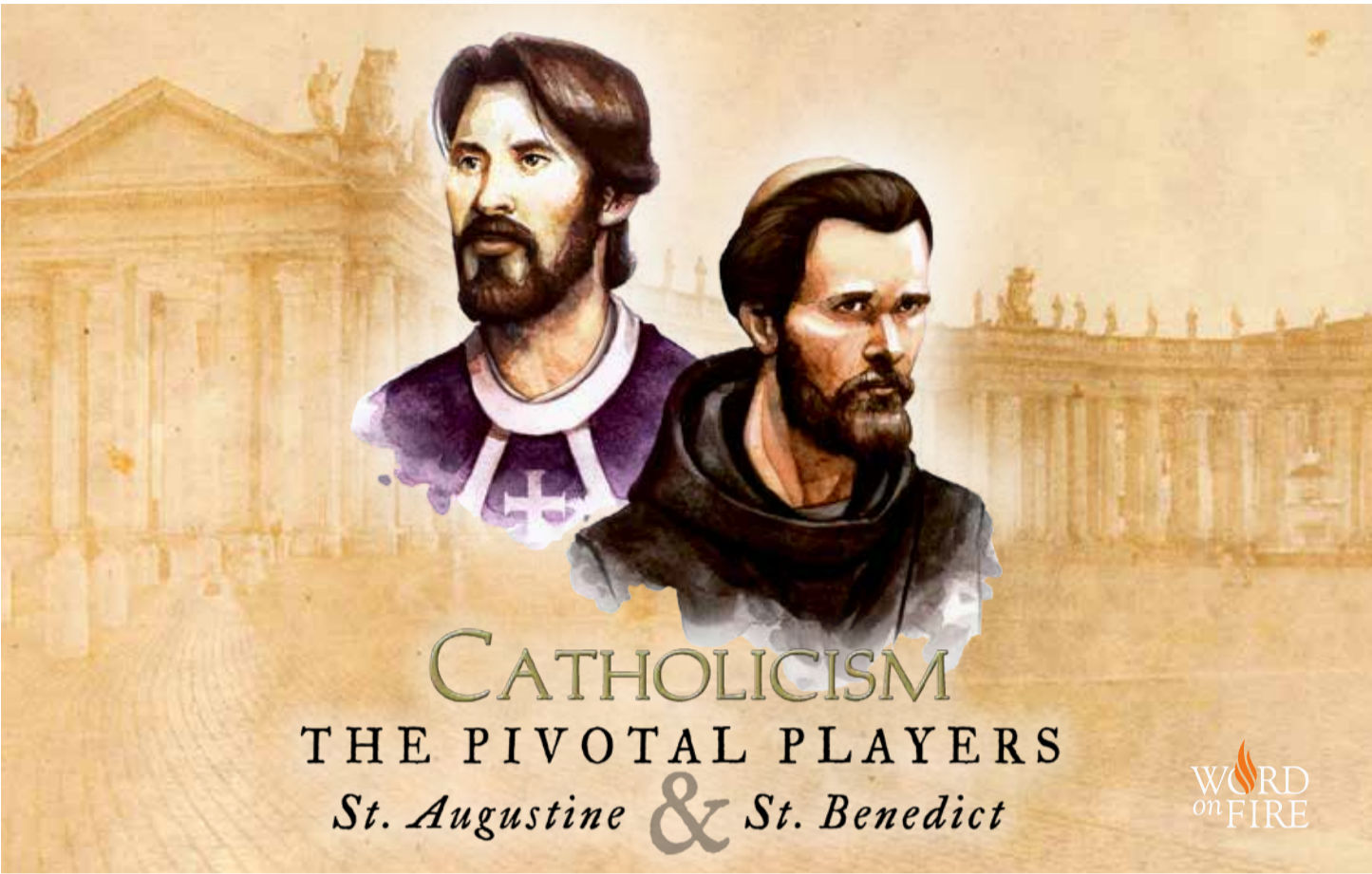
Father Reece Beltrame will begin a course this month illuminating a handful of people who have shaped the life of the Church.

This short study will focus primarily on two incredible saints from the fourth and fifth centuries: St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Benedict of Nursia.

The course will run for 6-8 weeks beginning on Tuesday 21st May and will trace the lives and contributions of these two pivotal saints and how they changed the course of western civilisation.

The multi-part series is brought to you by Bishop Robert Barron who is an author, speaker, theologian, and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry which reaches millions of people by utilising the tools of new media to draw people into or back to the Catholic Faith. Visit [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org) to find out more.

The course is open to all wanting to learn more about these two truly inspirational saints and how their faith guided them.



Experience the next chapter of  
**CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players*!**

CATHOLICISM: *The Pivotal Players* is a multi-part series that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of western civilization. This short study focuses on two incredible saints from the fourth and fifth centuries: St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Benedict of Nursia.

St. Augustine, the Teacher, is possibly the best example of how faith in Christ changed a person. Augustine's narrative of personal transformation in his book *Confessions* provides a template for life in Christ that still rings true today.

Many would argue that St. Benedict, the Monk, contributed more to saving western Christian culture than anyone else. Born just after Rome fell, Benedict founded the religious community that would, in time, preserve the best of the old and allow for the emergence of an authentic, Christian way of life.

Join Bishop Barron as he traces the lives and contributions of these two pivotal saints.

[WWW.WORDONFIRE.ORG](http://WWW.WORDONFIRE.ORG) ✱ [PIVOTALPLAYERS.COM](http://PIVOTALPLAYERS.COM)

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# A Pastoral Letter for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker

For over twenty years now the Catholic Church in Australia has marked the Feast of St Joseph the Worker on May 1 with a pastoral letter.

**by Bishop Terence Brady**  
*Bishops' Delegate for Social Justice Australian Catholic Bishops Conference*

**These letters place Catholic Social Teaching in dialogue with current work issues in Australia, making a uniquely Australian contribution to the Church's teachings on work. Initiated and created by laity and bishops together – they come from and belong to the whole church.**

## A Just Wage

Like Catholic Social Teaching internationally, the pastoral letters treat just wages as a key indicator of the justice of our society. Right now the Australian Bishops, with help from our Employment Relations Reference Group, are arguing at the Fair Work Commission for the National Minimum Wage to be set at a level that would make it a living wage.

In doing so, we stand in a tradition reaching back to Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On the Condition of the Working Classes).

We continue to argue that it is only fair that anyone working full time should receive a wage that is at least sufficient to support themselves and their family. Every working family should be able to live in 'frugal comfort' as Leo XIII put it.

It is shameful that there is such a thing as low wage poverty in Australia today.

## The Value of Unpaid Work

Work is not limited to paid employment. The pastoral letters affirm

that people "who without pay care for children, the elderly or infirm" and "those who are volunteers in all kinds of community activities, are workers too."

Furthermore, valuable unpaid work "is frequently done by women."

The 1999 pastoral letter acknowledged that "work that is not paid for is often taken for granted and accorded little esteem" and that even church communities ourselves "sometimes ask for a lot of voluntary work without valuing this work or honouring the people who provide these services."

Today we want to thank all the volunteers in parishes and community organisations, in Catholic social services, aged care and health care organisations, as well as those caring for family members. Your work makes God's love more visible in the world.

## The Social Wage

The structure of the labour market and the composition of the workforce have changed a great deal in the last twenty years, and the pastoral letters reflect how our teachings have developed in dialogue with these realities.

From the mid- twentieth century the teachings began to take into account the increasing involvement of the state in economic and social life, especially through social welfare or social security systems.

Just wages remain necessary, but they



“It is simplistic and unfair to see unemployment as a matter of personal failure when our economy has failed to ensure the availability of adequate employment.”

are no longer sufficient to ensure a just society – “in addition to fair wages, the taxation and social security systems also have a role to play.”

Hence the pastoral letters have also considered the justice of the ‘social wage’. For example, the 2013 pastoral letter calls for income support allowances to be increased so that they don’t leave people and families in poverty, however, six years later, people relying on Newstart are still waiting for an increase.

## Unemployment

The 2017 pastoral letter explains that “the decline of full- time permanent work, increasing casualisation of jobs and the entrenched disadvantage of people who are excluded mean that the two issues of insecure employment and unemployment have been constant themes on each Feast Day of St Joseph the Worker.”

The pastoral letters remind us that work “is part of our vocation as Christians” and that through it we “participate with God in the ongoing act of creation.”

It is a way of developing our skills, expressing ourselves, participating in society, and contributing to the common good of the community. Consequently,

much more than an income is lost when people are unemployed!

## An Economy of Inclusion

It is simplistic and unfair to see unemployment as a matter of personal failure when our economy has failed to ensure the availability of adequate employment.

It is not yet the economy of social inclusion that Pope Francis calls for!

Opinions may differ on what will best serve the common good, but let us remember that the common good is not served when vulnerable or disadvantaged people and groups are left out. As we approach the Federal election, let us revisit the invitation of the 2014 pastoral letter:

“Think of the older worker made redundant by technology and becoming ‘long-term unemployed’; a son or daughter completing their training but frustrated in the search for a job; a single mother trying to make ends meet on the Newstart Allowance; a household with work but still below the poverty line.”

## Knowing our Tradition

The pastoral letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker might not be well known, but they are a useful resource for reflection and action on contemporary work issues. **The most recent pastoral letters can be found online at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/pastoral-letters>** and those for 1998 – 2009 and for 2010 – 2015 are available in two small booklets in the Social Justice Series published by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council.

I recommend the pastoral letters for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker to you for your prayer and reflection, and hope to continue this tradition in the coming years.

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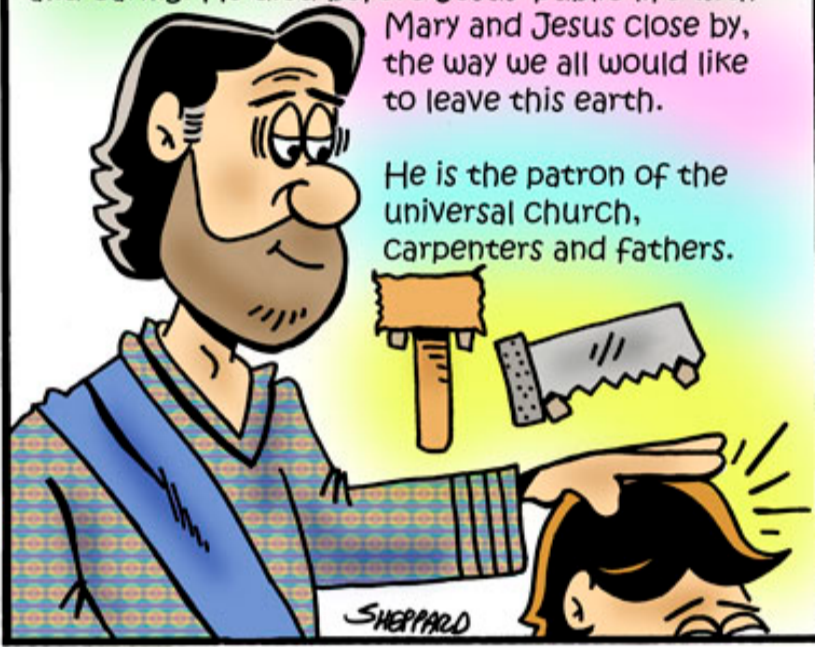
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# KIDS corner

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

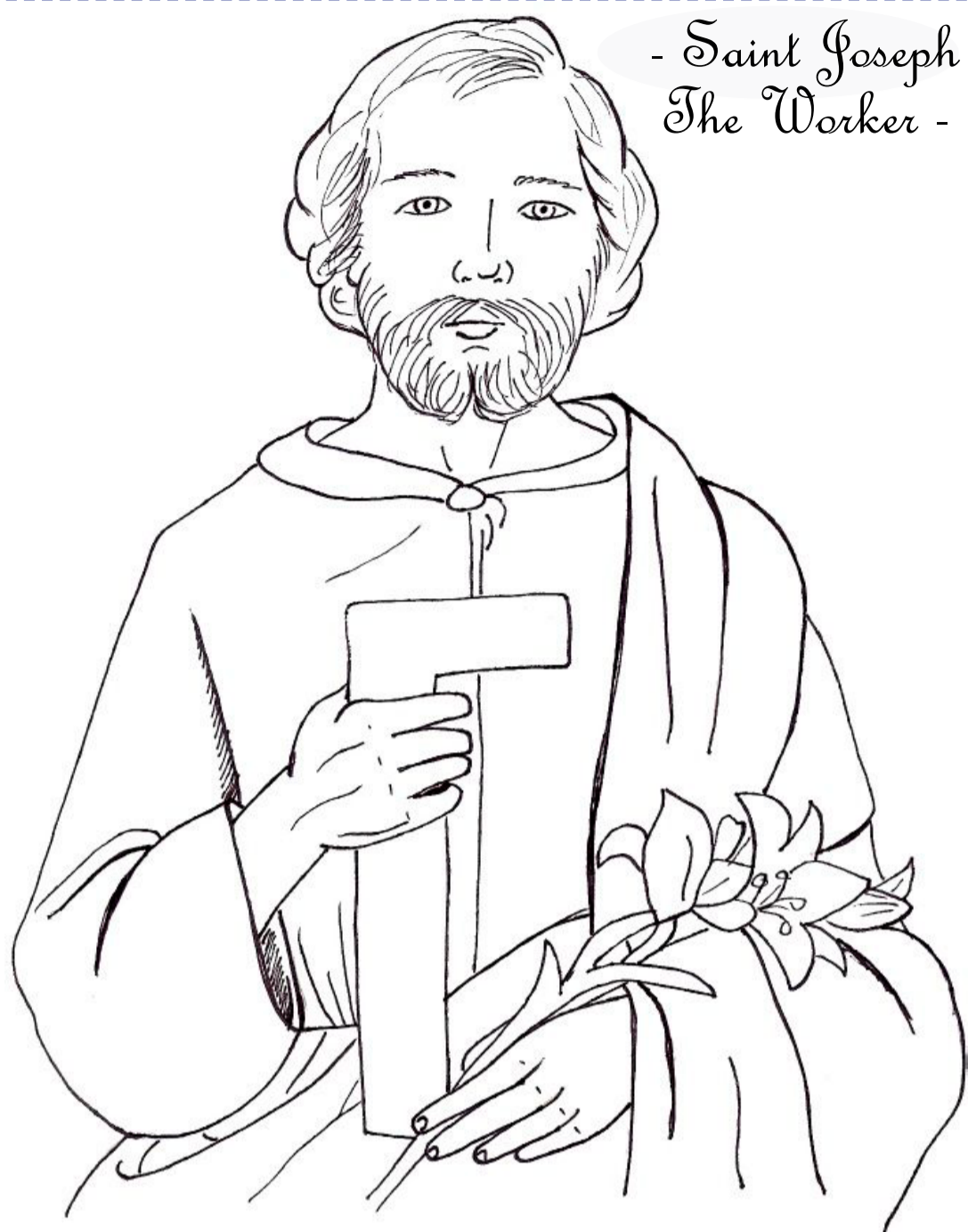
A Carpenter, a humble man, loving husband and a father. Without question, he heeded God in his dreams to save his family. He respected God and followed his commands. He was also compassionate and caring. He died before Jesus' public life with Mary and Jesus close by, the way we all would like to leave this earth.



He is the patron of the universal church, Carpenters and fathers.

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- Saint Joseph  
The Worker -



## Get Crafty...



## Felt Flower Bookmarks

This is a great craft for younger kids, because it is super easy and quick.

### Instructions:

All you need are green paper clips and felt flower stickers from your local craft store.  
Just use the green paperclips for the stems, and put felt flower stickers on the tip of the paperclip. They stick very well. If you want the flower to be one dimensional, cut out a small square/circle to cover the sticky part of the flower on the back. These make better bookmarks because they are flat. For a fun 3D flower, use the same flower and stick it to the other side!



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

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We'd love to hear from you!



## MAY SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

## Word Search

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



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



- St. **Joseph** the Worker
- St. **Philip**
- St. **James**
- Our Lady of **Fatima**
- St. **Matthias**
- St. **Isidore** the Farmer
- St. **John** I
- St. **Bernardine** of Sienna
- St. **Rita** the Cascia
- St. **Gregory** VII
- St. **Bede**
- St. Philip **Neri**
- St. **Augustine** of Canterbury
- St. **Joan** of Arc
- Visitation** of the Blessed Virgin Mary

# The Easter Sunday tragedy in Sri Lanka: through the eyes of faith

Sri Lanka is a charming island with rich multicultural heritage. It is mainly a Buddhist country, and its Catholic minority accounts for around 6.1 percent of the population (around 1.2 million).

*Written by members of the Catholic Sri Lankan Community of Wagga Wagga*

**Throughout history, Sri Lankan Catholics have co-existed peacefully with Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims and have served as a unifying force among the different races in Sri Lanka.** The Catholics of Sri Lanka share a deep reverence for the Virgin Mary. The National Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka in Tewatte is the cynosure of Catholic devotees. In 1939, at the beginning of World War II, Msgr. Jean Marie Masson OMI, Archbishop of Colombo, knelt at the grotto of the Our Lady of Lourdes chapel in Tewatte, and beseeched Mother Mary to intercede on behalf of Sri Lanka and protect the country from the perils of World War II and prayed for a miracle. When the island had been saved, the Cardinal vowed to build a Basilica in Mother Mary’s name. At the end of WWII, Sri Lanka was left largely unharmed, and thus the Catholic Church.

The Easter Sunday (21/4/2019) tragedy shocked this beautiful Island. 253 people, including innocent children and elderly, were killed leaving about 500 people injured, due to the suicide bombing in three churches and three leading city hotels.

This tragedy struck the Island on this holiest day of Christianity, when Christians all over the world celebrate Christ's resurrection from death and liberation of mankind from sinfulness. It left a trail of fear and sadness. Our hearts and prayers are with all those who were touched by this tragedy and as Christians we also pray for the forgiveness of the perpetrators.

When we see the agony, suffering and death of these innocent people, and when it was carried out in the name of God, one asks why Lord? But John 16

says “I have told you this so that you will not give up your faith; the time will come when anyone who kills you will think that by doing this he is serving God.” It is hard to understand this tragedy and respond to it from a human perspective without faith in God. If we look at this through our eyes of faith, for a Christian, death is not an end, but for those who die ‘in the Lord’ - a new start for everlasting life in the presence of God.

The life of Jesus itself is a perfect example to help us understand this tragedy and to learn our response to the above. Jesus was tortured and crucified to death by the cruelty of the people in the society, yet till He died on the cross. He was holding onto His Trust in the Father with a heart of compassion for the people who tortured Him and crucified Him.

Christians in the early church were also persecuted due to their faith. Jesus’s followers including the disciples had to face similar situations after the death of Jesus as they were proclaiming the Gospel. Yet their strong faith in the Lord was the cornerstone in helping them face tragedies, sadness and pain with a heart of compassion, love and forgiveness.

It’s a time to rethink about our role as disciples of Jesus for our world. According to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, “becoming a true disciple is being ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ, yet the goal is not to make enemies but to see God’s Word accepted and its capacity for liberation and renewal revealed”.

We have to live our faith, not simply



“When we see the agony, suffering and death of these innocent people, and when it was carried out in the name of God, one asks why Lord?”

profess our faith in Jesus. Just as Jesus sent His disciples saying “go forth and spread the good news,” we are also called today to live the Gospel in our society, led by example and to pray for and preach the Gospel to people who are yet to encounter Jesus. This is our personal call! How are we going to respond to this call? Are we ready to go forth and preach the Gospel by word and by our acts? The choice is ours.

Perhaps we can take a leaf out of the life of Sri Lanka’s very own saint: St Joseph Vaz. He arrived in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) in 1687 to minister to the scattered faithful as the Dutch colonizers were persecuting Catholics. St. Joseph Vaz travelled from village to village ministering to Catholics. He had to disguise himself as a beggar because the Dutch had banned Catholic priests from the island, and he lived in secrecy to work. He was brave and cared for plague victims even at the risk of contracting the disease himself. The people who saw his works of charity



Anthony Perera represented the Wagga Sri Lankan community at the Peace Vigil held in Wagga on 28 April. Anthony's mother and sister were lucky and survived the bombing at St Sebastian Church in Negombo where 93 people were killed.

were amazed. He also performed many miracles. By the time of his death in 1711 he had largely rebuilt the Catholic Church, earning him the title "Apostle of Sri Lanka". In 1995, at a ceremony in Colombo, Pope John Paul II beatified Father Joseph Vaz. On 17 September 2014, Pope Francis approved the vote to have him declared a saint and canonized Father Joseph Vaz in Colombo on 14 January 2015.

**Inspired by his example our prayers and life as Catholics should transform the hearts of the people who commit such tragic acts to follow Christ as St Paul did, and bring peace to this world.**



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## St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



Students from St Mary's at Yoogali marched for Anzac Day.  
**Lest we Forget.**



## St Brendan's Primary, Ganmain



The students at St Brendan's Primary School in Ganmain attended the Anzac Day Commemorations.



## All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba

Staff, students and parents from All Saints Primary School in Tumbarumba attended Anzac Day.



## Xavier High School, Albury

On May 1 Xavier High were honoured to form a guard of honour for Jay's March to support Matt Kean, Principal of Holy Spirit School, on his Melanoma March.

**Congratulations team on such an outstanding effort.**



If you'd like to support Matt please visit Melanoma March online at:  
**[www.tourdecure.com.au](http://www.tourdecure.com.au)**  
and type 'Matt Kean' in the search option.



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All schools enrolling now

## St Joseph's Primary, Culcairn



Students from St Joseph's School at Culcairn attended the local Anzac Day service.



## St Joseph's School, Junee

The Stage 3 children at St Joseph's School planned a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the last day of school term.

The children worked in small groups and had to work out a series of riddles and clues.



They then had to follow these around the school to find their treasure.

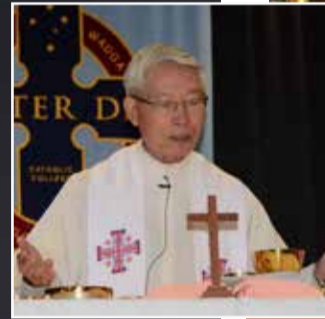
Congratulations on a successful event and thanks to everyone in the school for taking part.



## Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga

On May 10, Mater Dei Catholic College celebrated their Founders' Day Mass, along with Mater Dei Day!

This special day of celebration acknowledged and paid tribute to the charisms of Venerable Nano Nagle and Blessed Edmund Rice, and their respective Religious Orders; the Presentation Sisters and Christian Brothers who instituted Catholic Education in Wagga Wagga.



## St Mary's School, Corowa

**St Mary's had a huge Easter raffle last term.** Well done to all their lucky winners. The staff hope everyone had a happy, rejuvenating, safe and Holy Easter holiday break and wish all students well this term.



## St Patrick's School, Albury

St Patrick's Parish School attended the ANZAC Day march in Albury. A big thank you to all their students and families who participated.



# Uniting the Youth of the Diocese

It's been an eventful journey for the youth scene in the Diocese of Wagga since the establishment of the Chosen Youth back in 2016, endorsed by our former Bishop, Gerard Hanna.

by Christopher Gilroy - Youth Worker for the Wagga Wagga Diocese

The youth ministry model has a few layers which I would like to walk through with you and also make known the exciting events coming up this month.

**FIRST LEVEL: Parish C Groups**  
The model involves establishing a C Group (Communio Group (youth group)) into a particular parish in a given town and forming a team of volunteer leaders, who in cooperation with their Priest Chaplain and Diocesan Youth Workers, run a fortnightly C Group. These nights form around our focus areas of prayer, catechesis, relevant topics to youth, friendship and fun.

We currently have 5 C Groups in the Diocese: Wagga Wagga (Cathedral Parish), Albury (St Patricks), Narrandera (St Mel's), Leeton (St Joseph's), Griffith (Sacred Heart).

You can follow them on social media:

- Wagga:**  
Facebook - Chosen Youth Wagga  
Instagram - @chosenyouthwagga
- Albury:**  
Facebook - Chosen Youth Albury  
Instagram - @chosenyouthalbury
- Narrandera:**  
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- Griffith:**  
Facebook - Chosen Youth Griffith  
Instagram - @griffithchosenyouth

**SECOND LEVEL: Diocesan Events, Rallies and Retreats**

A focus of ours is to unite the young Catholics of the Diocese. We want our young people to meet each other, make more friends of faith and surround themselves with like minded good Christian people. The firm faith content flows easily into this area as the young people come to receive the Word and Sacraments of God together.

Our Retreat in 2019 was held from March the 22-24th. Themed 'Fight the Good Fight' we had fantastic talks and workshops by our priests, nuns and guest speakers as well as plenty of fun, prayer, activities and Sacraments for our young people. The event hosted 95 young people from all around the Diocese. The Chosen Retreat is considered the pinnacle of the Chosen calendar where young people can encounter the Lord in a deeper and personal way as they take a step back from the business of life.

Rallies are a one night event that typically runs for 3hrs on a Friday evening after school in a selected town. Young people of the diocese gather for faith formation, friendship and fun. Chosen Rallies bring a surge of faith and excitement to the youth of a parish as young people from around the diocese are given the opportunity to be present for that parish and be part of the ongoing evangelisation process in that town. Last year we held our first Rally

in Leeton where 130 young people travelled across from Griffith, Narrandera, Albury, Wagga and other pockets in-between to be there. The event hosted great speakers in Fr Reece Beltrame and fantastic panel Q&A discussions. The inspiring part of the evening was witnessing 130 young people with lit candles singing hymns in English and Latin as part of a Eucharistic procession into the Church and witnessed half an hour in devout Adoration. The joy of the youth was encouraging to each other and the Leeton parish and it's youth in particular!

This year we have 3 Chosen Rallies scheduled. The first of which is in Griffith this month on the 31st of May at Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, 6-9pm. See the event details in the poster provided. You can follow the announcements in the lead up on our diocesan social media sites: Facebook - Chosen Youth, Instagram - @chosenyouthaus.

Contact your local parish to talk about their planned transport and encourage young people who are high-school and university aged to attend. The Rally will be a great experience for them and will give them the opportunity to evangelise other young people who need their support.

**YOUNG ADULTS**  
We host a number of events for young adults including D Groups (Discipleship Groups) and Chosen18+ events.

**D Groups** occur weekly and are run by young adult initiative. They involve subject areas of Scripture, Tradition, Sacred Art, Sacraments and Morals. D Groups tend to be seasonal and run on the back and willingness of young adult participation. Wagga and Albury have both run one successfully. If you would like to learn more and are interested in starting a D Group with your group of young adults friends then contact Christopher Gilroy on 0429344123. All resources are provided for willing participants.

As a follow up of our D Groups we will be commencing a new series with Fr Reece from St Michael's Cathedral Parish, commencing on May the 21st. The focus area for the 8 part Word on Fire series is through the works of St. Benedict and St. Augustine. Contact Fr Reece through the Cathedral Parish for more info.

**Chosen18+** runs every couple of months and involve a night at a venue where young adults gather to have a meal and a drink, listen to live music from talented musicians and listen to a Talk by a guest speaker. Our last one was in January where Emily Shaw spoke on "Work with Purpose". This month we have one on May the 10th at the Cave Restaurant Wagga 6-9pm and a talk on "Theology of the Body", presented by Simon Carrington. Simon and his wife Madeleine are the founders of Fire Up Ministries in Sydney and are dedicated speakers on this topic and the likes.

There is also potentially a second Chosen18+ on June the 1st. You can stay in the loop by following Chosen Youth on Facebook and @chosenyouthaus on Instagram.

## Youth Ministry

### WHAT'S ON IN MAY FOR CHOSEN YOUTH C GROUPS

**WAGGA**  
19th May: Scripture Night 6:30-8:30pm  
St. Michael's Cathedral Parish

**ALBURY**  
19th May: Scripture Night 6:30-8:30pm  
St Patrick's Catholic Parish

**NARRANDERA**  
18th May: Series Night (New Series)  
St. Mel's Catholic Parish

**LEETON**  
May 18th: Topic Night  
St. Joseph's Catholic Parish

**GRIFFITH**  
May 11th: Topic Night: Q&A  
May 31st: Chosen Rally 6-9pm  
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

### DIOCESEN EVENTS

**CHOSEN18+**  
10th May: 6-9pm at the Cave Restaruant Wagga  
'Theology of the Body' - by Simon Carrington

**CHOSEN RALLY**  
May 31st; 6-9pm Chosen Rally Griffith for all high school and university aged young people

MAY 31  
6-9PM  
VENUE: Sacred Heart  
Parish Hall, Griffith

chosen youth

# CHOSEN RALLY GRIFFITH

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PARISHES ACROSS THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND

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Facebook: Chosen Youth  
Instagram: chosenyouthaus  
For more info contact:  
Christopher Gilroy: 0429344123  
youth.murrayewagga.catholic.org.au

# L'Arche announces the death of Jean Vanier

L'Arche Australia announced the death of its founder Jean Vanier, who died on May 7th in the Maison Médicale Jeanne Garnier in Paris. He was 90 years old.

**"Jean has left an extraordinary legacy," said L'Arche International Leader Stephan Posner.**

"His Community of Trosly, the Communities of L'Arche, Faith and Light, many other movements, and countless thousands of people have cherished his words and benefited from his vision."

Vanier founded L'Arche in 1964 in response to the treatment that people with learning disabilities faced in institutions. There are now more than 150 L'Arche communities in 38 countries around the world, where more than ten thousand people with and without learning disabilities create places of welcome and celebration, sharing in life together.

There are 5 L'Arche Communities and 3 groups in the process of forming in Australia. Dr. David Treanor, National

Leader of L'Arche Australia, said: "Jean's death is a great sadness. His vision was one of radical welcome, inclusion and joy, where marginalised people with learning disabilities are valued and celebrated.

**"He will be greatly missed by people from all walks of life who have been influenced and changed by his teachings, which remain as relevant today as ever."**

In recent decades, after he retired from his role at L'Arche, Vanier focused on his work sharing a message of unity, dignity and diversity. Jean entrusted the organisation's legacy to the people who define what L'Arche is today: its members and Communities.

In addition to his work with L'Arche, Vanier co-founded Faith and Light, and inspired the creation of many other organisations. He influenced



Pope Francis receives Jean Vanier in audience in the Vatican on 21 March 2014

thousands of people around the world and published some forty books on how people with learning disabilities make essential contributions to building a more humane society.

L'Arche Australia is currently hosting screenings of Summer in the Forest' in different locations around the country. The film documents the experience of life in the community of L'Arche Trosly, which Jean founded.





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IN OUR LIVES**

**FOR WOMEN**

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**COMPASSION**

**ACTION**

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 31, 2019**

**9.30 am - 3.30 pm**

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COLLEGE**

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WAGGA WAGGA**

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COST: DONATION**

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[cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com](mailto:cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com)**

**GUEST PRESENTER: SALLY NEAVES**

**FACILITATOR: JILL McCORQUODALE**

SPONSORED BY  
THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA AND  
THE COUNCIL FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC WOMEN

*continued from page 4...*

Tim and Jenni Goulding travelled from New Zealand especially for the conference, and gave a great talk about family life as an older couple. They described their previously exhausting toddler years as some of the fondest to look back on, and that we shouldn't take those days for granted.

Martin Iles, Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby, reminded us in his presentation that we really have to be a light amongst the darkness. He said that not unlike the early Christians, people are drawn to Christ when we ourselves act as faithful examples of his goodness, but we must get out there, be on display and be courageous. We answer only to God and we must keep doing good, even when the truth creates controversy.

There were many content-filled talks and presentations scheduled over the two days of the conference, but it wasn't all hard work. The family concert on the Friday evening showcased the talents of many families with Scottish and Irish dancing, tap-dancing, ballet, singing and more. During free time on the Saturday afternoon, there were fun activities for the adults with a marriage enrichment workshop by Tim and Jenni Goulding as well as a 'Makers Table' craft session with Janet Smith. The younger ones had organised free time, followed up on the Saturday evening by a scrumptious paella meal provided by Keiran Williams, teacher at Saint Mary Mackillop College,

Jindera. After dinner and a candle-light Rosary procession, everyone kicked up their heels with the ever-popular bush dance with the almost mandatory Nut Bush City Limits keeping everybody bopping.

The closing Mass on Palm Sunday was at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Thurgoona, and was celebrated by Bishop Umbers. Families were invited to share lunch together and reminisce on a great weekend well-spent. Everyone was farewelled with blessings and a strong suggestion to discuss the weekend with their children and what they remember and got out of it.

The conference was generously sponsored by Saint Mary Mackillop College Jindera, Saint Mary Mackillop College Wagga Wagga, and by the Archdioceses of Melbourne and Sydney.

It is planned to run the conference again next year.

**Go to [www.facebook.com/NACFWaggaWagga](https://www.facebook.com/NACFWaggaWagga) for more photos.**



Martyn Iles, Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby

# Education the key to unlocking a positive outcome for abuse survivor

Growing up being told “you’re ugly” by members of his family left Bruce Fitzgerald struggling to believe in his worth.

**The torment of mental abuse was made worse by the severe physical and sexual abuse he was subjected to, all of which added up to create a childhood made of nightmares.**

Mr Fitzgerald endured a childhood that many would have struggled to survive. But he has overcome the trauma to realise his dream of a university education.

He recently graduated from Australian Catholic University (ACU) with a Bachelor of Arts after first completing the Certificate of Liberal Studies through Clemente Australia, an innovative university pathway program that empowers people experiencing social isolation and multiple disadvantages.

Clemente Australia students are often dealing with complex social issues, such as mental illness, disability, addiction, unemployment, homelessness or family breakdown that can make studying difficult.

By focusing on the humanities, the Clemente Australia program supports students to re-engage with their community while enabling them to see themselves as agents of change. Student benefits include increased self-esteem, improved social connections and more structured lives.

Mr Fitzgerald now wants to use his university education to help others realise new possibilities and life choices.

“The worst part of my childhood was the mental abuse. Being blamed for everything that was wrong and then constantly being told how ugly I was,” he said.

Mr Fitzgerald was a bright child and did well academically in both primary and high school, despite his difficult home life.

“I did well in form 5 (now year) 11. My marks were as follows, 90 per cent for accounting, 89 per cent for economics and 87 per cent for legal studies,” he said. “The only subject I failed was English – 47 per cent. But I was expelled for non-attendance so I went to work.”

Most of his working life involved heavy labour in the metal industry. It was during this time that he began to suffer mental health issues that developed into injecting drug use and a heavy drinking problem. The drug use left him with serious health issues, including HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.

“In 2011, I was put on the pension which meant I was able to start the Hepatitis C cure. It was 12 months of pure hell. I was very unwell but now I am free of the disease,” he said. “It was after I finished treatment and feeling at a loose end that I started the Clemente Australia program.”

ACU first introduced Clemente to Australia 15 years ago and variations of the program are now run through all campuses of the University. Clemente



Bruce Fitzgerald, Bachelor of Arts graduate

Australia’s National Leader ACU Associate Professor Peter Howard has been there from the beginning, leading the establishment of Clemente Australia in 2003.

Professor Howard said, “Clemente Australia is all about bringing people together. Clemente is a program that is transformational – it creates new opportunities for people.”

And the results speak for themselves. The program has produced hundreds of graduates with many choosing to undertake further studies, including Mr Fitzgerald who went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts at ACU.

“Clemente Australia opens doors to new opportunities. Everyone is always helpful - there was always support available from

the staff,” he said. “The best way to battle mental illness is to keep doing things. Getting involved and learning new things such as philosophy and sociology.”

**And the best is yet to come for Mr Fitzgerald. After a competitive interview process, he has commenced working for ACU, as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduate.** The Program provides a two-year, broad-based employment experience across two ACU directorates, Student Administration and Community Engagement.



# Catholic education remains a force for social harmony

Free, yet accountable, Catholic education remains a powerful catalyst for social harmony according to a visiting expert in international and human rights law.

Faith-based institutions, including Catholic organisations, are under siege in many countries as leaders address the delicate balance between religion, law and the state in increasingly secular societies.

While acknowledging some of the sticking points, which include funding and curriculum, Notre Dame Law School (USA) Professor Paolo Carozza argued for the role of Catholic education in developing social capital.

“There’s a lot of reason to believe that Catholic schools in many parts of the world are capable of contributing a great deal to social capital and social harmony and development very broadly,”

the director of Notre Dame’s Kellogg Institute for International Studies said.

“These institutions are providing a formation that has huge implications for the development and stability and public wellbeing of communities. Values-laden education is a way to encourage and foster civic engagement, democratic values, community growth and development, higher degrees of toleration and understanding in a fraught era.”

Professor Carozza is among a coterie of law and education experts who will speak at the Freedom, autonomy and responsibility conference from 22-24 May at Australian Catholic University’s

North Sydney Campus. The conference will be hosted by ACU in collaboration with The Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Institute for Educational Initiatives, University of Notre Dame (USA); the Holy See’s Congregation for Catholic Education; and the European Association for Education Law and Policy.

Guests will hear from speakers including Professor Carozza, ACU Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Craven, Congregation for Catholic Education Undersecretary Fr Friedrich Bechina FSO and Global Education Law Forum President Professor Jan De Groof on finding the balance in Catholic education and the law in a global context.

Professor Carozza said the funding of faith-based institutions was a shared problem which could be tackled with the assistance of fruitful and sustainable international relationshipss.

“The hope is that we will catalyse a new global network of scholars and



Professor Paolo Carozza

practitioners in this area who can help one another and share information with one another in establishing new relationships,” he said.

“Seeing each other country that we’re dealing with has its own set of problems and challenges, but contextualising them, hopefully will also allow us to see where there is reason for hope and optimism and not see everything as being a manifestation of crisis and siege.”

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**NB:** Contact Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm for further details about the pilgrimage & application form.

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# From Fire by Water

## My Journey to the Catholic Faith

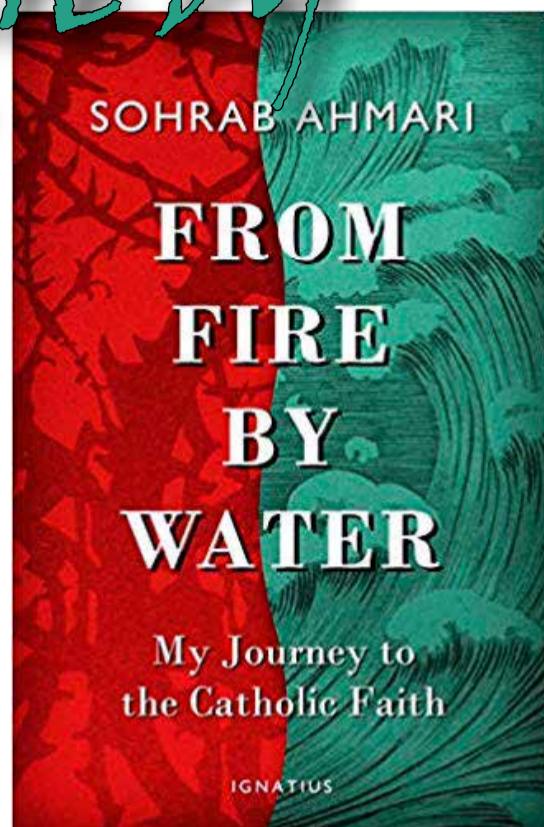
review by Fr Reece Beltrame

Sohrab Ahmari grew up under the strict rule of Iranian Ayatollahs, just how he was removed from this unhappy experience yet found himself similarly oppressed and burdened before finally arriving at catholic faith is what Sohrab has left us with in his book.

The uniqueness of Sohrab's account of his conversion lies in the fact the he cannot be tied down as a particular "type" of convert, deeply intelligent and intellectual – yes, moved by human experience and a deep longing that is experienced inside every human heart – yes, moved by the grace of God in particular circumstance and by Christian witness, yes and yes.

Part of Sohrab's genius is that he has conveyed so much and done it in a relatively short book, just over 200 pages. Anyone with an open mind, an enquiring heart or a rigorous intellect would find in his account much food for thought and inspiration for living out the catholic faith.

**I know it's relatively early in the calendar year of 2019 but I cannot help but to think that this book will be "Fr Reece's Book of the Year" for 2019.**



**Sohrab Ahmari** is the op-ed editor of the *New York Post* and a contributing editor of the *Catholic Herald*. Previously, he served as a columnist and editor with the *Wall Street Journal* opinion pages in New York and London, and as senior writer at *Commentary* magazine. His work has also been published in the *New York Times*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Weekly Standard*, *First Things*, *Dissent* and *America*, among many other publications.



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# Mass times across our Diocese

## Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

## Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

## Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

## Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

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

## Albury

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

## Albury - North Albury

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

## Albury - Lavington

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

## Albury - Thurgoona

**Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
**Weekend Masses**  
Saturday - 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

Tumbarumba

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

Urana

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

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

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



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

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 5 May 1935  | Fr Garrett Anthony Shannon |
| 5 May 1945  | Fr Patrick Joseph O'Reilly |
| 7 May 1944  | Fr Aeneas Francis Hennessy |
| 8 May 1973  | Fr William James Gilby     |
| 9 May 2014  | Fr Sean Conroy             |
| 16 May 1908 | Fr Thomas Joseph Carroll   |
| 19 May 2001 | Fr John Anthony McGrath    |
| 23 May 1895 | Fr Richard J Carr          |
| 24 May 1959 | Fr Percival Edward McVeigh |

*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: May

**5th May - Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Today's Gospel describes what we can easily imagine as a picnic on the beach.** Just as Jesus' miracle at the wedding feast at Cana blesses the love between man and woman celebrated in the sacrament of marriage, Jesus' attentiveness to food and mealtimes raises the possibility that our meal gatherings can be sacred times. In families, the domestic church, our meals together are everyday opportunities to gather and recall Jesus' presence with us. As in the Eucharist, we bring the gifts that God has given us, which have been prepared especially for our Mass, and at our family meals we share gifts that God has given to us and that we have worked together to prepare. This includes the food on the table and also the people who gather around the table. We ask God to bless these gifts and to be present among us in all of our interactions.

*Acts of the Apostles 5:27-32,40b-41*  
*Psalms 30:2,4,5-6,11-12,13*  
*Revelation 5:11-14*  
*John 21:1-19 (short form: John 21:1-14)*

**12th May - Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Not only can we recognize family members' voices, we can also read the tone of their voices and know something about how they are feeling.** In our relationship with Jesus, we know Jesus' voice and are called to follow. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. In the Gospel

of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father.  
Read with your family today's Gospel, John 10:27-30. Ask your family members to talk about some ways that Jesus brings them closer to God and closer to one another. Pray together the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.  
*Acts of the Apostles 13:14,43-52*  
*Psalms 100:1-2,3,5*  
*Revelation 7:9,14b-17*  
*John 10:27-30*

**19th May - Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Is love the first word your family members use to describe their interactions?** Love is difficult. Jesus' sacrifice for us is an example of this. Yet because of love, the glory of God is fully revealed in Jesus. God's glory is revealed in us when we act as the Body of Christ, as individuals and as a community. In the love we have for one another—difficult, challenging, sacrificial love—we find Jesus.  
Choose one or two occasions when your family was together during the week. Describe the family's interactions from an outsider's perspective. When is it less difficult to show love to family members? When is it more difficult? When love is difficult, what do we do?  
Jesus didn't just tell us to love one another. He showed us how to love one another. In what ways did Jesus show us how to love? (in his acts of healing and forgiving; at the Last Supper as he washed his disciples' feet; in the

gift of the Eucharist; through his death on the Cross).  
*Acts of the Apostles 14:21-27*  
*Psalms 145:8-9,10-11,12-13*  
*Revelation 21:1-5a*  
*John 13:31-33a,34-35*

**26th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Parents are always helping their children prepare for something, whether that consists of getting ready for school, preparing for an exam, or making preparations to go on vacation.** In today's Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for his Passion, death, and Resurrection. He promises his Holy Spirit, gives them the gift of his peace, and tells them not to be troubled.  
As a family, talk about the kinds of events that you have prepared for together; surgeries, funerals, vacations, and first days of school are some examples. Talk about why it is important to prepare for important events in our lives. Then read aloud this Sunday's Gospel: John 14:23-29. Talk about how Jesus prepared his disciples for his Death and Resurrection and how he wanted them to be prepared for what would happen so that they would be able to believe.  
Talk about how, as a family, you can prepare for Pentecost (only 2 weeks away), when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, our Advocate.  
*Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2,22-29*  
*Psalms 67:2-3,5,6,8*  
*Revelation 21:10-14,22-23*  
*John 14:23-29*



# St Vincent de Paul Society *good works*

## Jeremy's story of survival



**Jeremy moved over to Australia from New Zealand looking for work.** After hitting hard times he resorted to drugs and then battled serious mental health issues and homelessness. When he finally discovered the Matthew Talbot Hostel things turned around.

"I spent a few years in rehab, off and on. Got myself straightened up that way but accommodation was the biggest one," explains Jeremy.

He spent around 10 years of his life without a home, living in refuges, at friends' places and even on the streets.

"I stayed at a friend's flat for about five years, just sleeping on the couch. We were going to Vinnies to get food vouchers, but we didn't realise there was the accommodation side of it, it wasn't until I came here to the Talbot," explained Jeremy.

The Matthew Talbot

Hostel (MTH) provides accommodation and specialised support to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These services range from providing nutritious meals, clothing, showers and basic medical to intensive case management, legal and housing support, specialised health care, advocacy and providing a safe, welcoming environment for people who are sleeping rough and have experienced trauma.

When he arrived at the MTH, Jeremy was given a bed and access to life-changing services. While his case worker helped him access medical treatment and search for more permanent accommodation, Jeremy was able to find his feet again in a safe environment. He joined several classes and workshops to learn new skills and build his confidence. The cooking class and Gambling Anonymous (GA)

classes were his favourites.

"You have to learn to do things. I did some cooking classes, that was pretty good. I had to sharpen up and get my act together."

Suffering from a mental illness, Jeremy has been unable to keep a job and worries that he will never be in a position to work again.

"I just hear noises and things like that. Sometimes it gives me a fright, things happen and I can't concentrate, they start and I can't think. To do work you need to be functional and I often am not functional. It's not my choice, it just happens."

Jeremy was lucky that Vinnies found him a private apartment to rent fairly quickly –it took around a year. Many people can be on the waitlist for affordable housing for up to 10 years.

"They furnished it for me and gave me pots and pans, a bed, kitchen table, sofa, TV, coffee table. Basics, but it got me going and I've picked up things ever since and it's a good flat."

Vinnies runs a clinic at the MTH to help people keep on top

of their mental health and other medical issues. Even though he lives in his own place, he regularly visits the clinic.

"I get on well with the clinic. I have chest problems and other things, and they monitor me, at least every two weeks."

Jeremy struggles financially because he is unable to work. Vinnies is still there for him when he needs support.

"I go to Vinnies sometimes just down the road. You go to them and say you are a bit short and they come around with a food voucher.

"I come down to the Talbot for my lunches. Sometimes I come for breakfast, I've got to get out of bed by quarter past six to be here on time. But I don't mind it, if I wake up early I'll go down for a stroll and have breakfast, I like their breakfasts."

His caseworker, Jason

explained: "We want to keep him in community and being independent, and helping him out there."

Since finding Vinnies, Jeremy has greatly improved his situation and re-built his confidence.

"I've got a more respectable lifestyle. It's a good lifestyle, I enjoy it. I enjoyed getting my flat together and putting my own little bits and pieces into it, it looks good, I like it."

Jeremy is incredibly grateful to Vinnies and the donors whose financial support makes it possible for services like the MTH to operate.

"Thank you, it's truly going to a good, worthy cause. I'm an example. I wouldn't be anywhere near this state of mind or state of place if it wasn't for Vinnies...I'm a different person now."

Please consider making a donation to the  
St Vincent de Paul Society

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1.3 MILLION  
PEOPLE ASSISTED



365,164  
BED NIGHTS



2 MILLION  
HOT MEALS

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**\$30**  
provides a bed for someone in need of crisis accommodation for the night

**\$75**  
provides a course in life skills: cooking, preparing for a job interview or basic computer skills

**\$100**  
provides one week's accommodation for women escaping domestic violence

**\$200**  
enables a group of children to take part in school holiday programs

**\$1,000**  
prevents a family from being evicted from their home