



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

wagga.catholic.org.au

FREE

MAY 2020 #2



Welcome Bishop Mark

Meet the new Bishop Elect of Wagga Wagga,
the Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI appointed to Wagga Wagga

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed the Most Reverend Mark Stuart Edwards, OMI, Bishop of Wagga Wagga, who until now has been Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Mark Edwards OMI the sixth Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

Bishop Edwards, who will turn 61 next month, was born in Indonesia and grew up in Adelaide, Darwin and Melbourne's southeast, attending St Leonard's Primary School and Mazenod College. Mazenod was founded by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the order he would eventually join.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1986 and has held leadership positions within the Australian Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne on November 7, 2014 and ordained bishop the following month.

Bishop Edwards' priestly ministry has largely centred on secondary

school and seminary education, including serving as rector of Iona College in Brisbane and as aspirants' master and novice master at St Mary's Seminary in Mulgrave.

In addition to his priestly formation and theological training, Bishop Edwards completed a science degree at Monash University, where he also obtained a doctorate in philosophy.

In a letter to the faithful of Wagga Wagga, Bishop Edwards described his appointment "as a call from God to be with you and journey with you as disciple, brother and bishop".

"Together, as a community of missionary disciples, we will worship, love and evangelise," he said.

"I am aware that I have much to learn, particularly about parish life and the joys and challenges of being



a Catholic in Wagga Wagga. Keen to listen to your stories and those of the Diocese, I come humbly, with deep interest and love.

"Please pray for me that I may offer the service that the Diocese needs. I will pray for you."

Bishop Edwards paid tribute to Bishop Gerard Hanna for his more than 14 years of leadership in the Diocese before retirement due to ill health in 2016. He also thanked Archbishop Christopher Prowse of Canberra and Goulburn, who has served as apostolic administrator of Wagga Wagga for almost four years – and will continue to do so until Bishop Edwards' installation.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said it is "a joy

to welcome the appointment, especially after such a long wait".

He said Bishop Edwards' background in ministry will stand him in good stead, saying he has "both a feel for the local Church and a missionary awareness".

"Like many of his Oblate confreres, Bishop Mark brings to the episcopal ministry a combination of simplicity and sophistication, and that will equip him well for all that awaits him in Wagga," Archbishop Coleridge said.

"I join with the bishops of Australia in pledging our prayers as he prepares to take office and our fraternal support in the years ahead."

A date for Bishop Edwards' installation is not yet known.



Bishop Edwards letter to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Dear people and clergy of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga,

Greetings in the Risen Lord. Pope Francis has asked me to be the bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese and I want to commence our friendship and relationship. I am grateful and am looking forward to being among you.

Archbishop Prowse has told me of your love for the Lord and your generosity and faithfulness to Him.

You have waited a long time for a new bishop. I thank you all for your perseverance, your patience and your good will, which have enabled the Diocese to function so well over these last three-and-a-half years.

With you, I acknowledge and thank Bishop Gerard Hanna, who served the Diocese for over 14 years.

Thank you, also, to Archbishop Christopher Prowse, who will

continue to serve as Apostolic Administrator until my installation, and Fr Kevin O'Reilly and Msgr Douglas George, the delegates of the Apostolic Administrator. They have almost certainly served for much longer than they expected. I join with you in gratitude to them and to the staff of the Diocese.

This Diocese was here long before I was called to be Bishop and will be around long after me; that reminds us that this is God's work. Each Sunday we recite that we believe in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. One meaning of this is that we trust that God is working in and through the Church. For this reason, I experience this appointment as a call from God to be with you and to journey with you as disciple, brother and bishop. Together, as a community of missionary disciples, we will

worship, love and evangelise.

I am aware that I have much to learn, particularly about parish life and the joys and challenges of being a Catholic in Wagga Wagga Diocese. Keen to listen to your stories and those of the Diocese, I come humbly, with deep interest and love.

Finn

As the people and clergy of Wagga Wagga Diocese, we will face many challenges together and can do so with hope and confidence as Jesus is with us to the end of time.

COVID-19 restrictions will make having a large number of people present at the installation of the new bishop impossible, so we will have a quiet beginning after the long wait. Perhaps later we will be able to have a larger formal gathering to celebrate this moment.

Because many of you can't come

to me, I will come to you. I do plan to move around and be in various parishes and meet as many of you as possible, as quickly as possible. I look forward to meeting you personally, learning the stories of your communities and working collaboratively with you in living out our mission as disciples of Jesus.

Please pray for me that I may offer the service that the Diocese needs. I will pray for you.

Mary Immaculate, pray for us.

St Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

St Philip Neri, pray for us.

St Eugene de Mazenod, pray for us.

Blessed Joseph Gerard, pray for us.

**Yours in Jesus Christ
and Mary Immaculate**

**Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop Elect of Wagga Wagga**

We are delighted to welcome our Bishop



Dear Friends in Christ,

In these days before the great Solemnity of Pentecost, in joy I convey to you all that the Holy Father has appointed Most Reverend Mark Stuart Edwards OMI, presently Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, as Bishop of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Our long wait and perseverance in prayer for a new Bishop is now over. We are delighted to welcome our new Bishop and assure him of our prayers.



In offering prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord and His Mother, Mary, for the upcoming 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, I sincerely thank the priests and people of the diocese for their incessant prayers for a new bishop and their patience in this long time of transition. In

a special way I thank Fr Kevin O'Reilly and Mons. Doug George for their pastoral service to the diocese over these intervening years as my Delegates.

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI Succeeds Bishop Gerard Hanna who faithfully served this diocese as Bishop from 2002 till his retirement in 2016. We renew our thanks for his pastoral zeal over those years.

The Office and responsibilities of the Apostolic Administrator continue until the installation of the new bishop. Further details will be made known soon.

Yours sincerely in Christ.
Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Catholic Archbishop of
Canberra and Goulburn Apostolic
Administrator of the Diocese of
Wagga Wagga



Congratulations Bishop Mark

We look forward to welcoming you to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga

Appointment of the Bishop of Wagga Wagga

Curriculum Vitae of the Most Reverend Mark Stuart Edwards, OMI., Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

The Most Reverend Mark Stuart Edwards, O.M.I., was born in Balikpapan, Indonesia, on 14th June 1959. He attended St Leonard's Primary School, Glen Waverley, Mulgrave and then Secondary School at Mazenod College. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Monash University in Melbourne.

Having entered the Novitiate of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1980, he made final profession on 17th February 1984. He studied for the priesthood at Catholic Theological College within the University of Divinity and was ordained priest on 16th August 1986. His priestly ministry has seen him engaged in wide-ranging appointments in education and formation.


He pursued higher studies at Monash University where he obtained a Bachelor of Letters and a Doctorate in Philosophy in 2007. He served as a Counsellor of the Australia Province of the Oblates

of Mary Immaculate from 2001 to 2012.

Bishop Edwards was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and given the Titular See of Garba on 7th November 2014. He received the Episcopal Ordination on 17th December 2014.

At present he is a member of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

- Appointments:**
- 1986 - 1989 Teacher, Mazenod College, Mulgrave
 - 1990 - 1997 Teacher, Iona College, Brisbane.
 - 1998 - 2004 Aspirants' Master, Saint Mary's Seminary, Mulgrave.
 - 2004 - 2007 Novice Master, Saint Mary's Seminary, Mulgrave.
 - 2005 - 2010 Lecturer, Catholic Theological College, Melbourne.
 - 2007 - 2010 Director of Scholastics, Saint Mary's Seminary, Mulgrave
 - 2010 - 2014 Rector, Iona, College, Brisbane




APPOINTMENT OF THE BISHOP OF WAGGA WAGGA

*Under Embargo until 12 noon in Rome
Tuesday, 26th May 2020*

The Apostolic Nunciature in Australia has the honour to announce that:

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed the Most Reverend **Mark Stuart Edwards, OMI.**, Bishop of Wagga Wagga, who until now has been Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Canberra, 25th May 2020.



Melbourne congratulates new Bishop



'On this Feast Day of St Philip Neri, it is with great pleasure, and a twinge of sadness, that I welcome the appointment of Bishop Mark Edwards OMI as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga,' Archbishop Peter A Comensoli said.

'St Philip was a 16th century disciple well-known for his natural ability to connect with people and invite them to an encounter with the risen Jesus.

As Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Bishop Mark has shown this same missionary zeal, especially in his work with our young people and tertiary communities, and with the people of the Western Region of the Archdiocese for whom he has cared for these past years as their Regional Bishop. He will be well-placed to listen to and lead the people of God in Wagga Wagga.'

In 2014 Bishop Mark was consecrated Bishop, and was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne. As part of that role, he was appointed Regional Bishop for the Western communities of the Archdiocese and became Episcopal Vicar for Tertiary Education and

Youth He also currently serves on the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council and the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education.

With a heart for the young, Bishop Mark has dedicated much of his time to the ongoing development of youth ministry within the Archdiocese, encouraging a deeper sense of discipleship and vocation among youth leaders. He has been instrumental in establishing stronger networks with tertiary chaplains, encouraging their ongoing formation and enabling their accreditation within the Archdiocese.

In 2015, Bishop Mark attended the Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment and in 2016 led the Victorian pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Poland.

In accepting his appointment, Bishop Mark expressed his gratitude



Former Auxiliary Bishop Mark Stuart Edwards of Melbourne, Australia, talks with Indonesian youth delegate Anastasia Indrawan before a session of the Synod of Bishops on young people, the faith and vocational discernment at the Vatican Oct. 9 2018. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

and humility to the Holy Father:

'I am deeply humbled by this appointment and wish to express my thanks and good wishes to all the people of Melbourne, with whom I have been for the last six years.

'As Pope Francis often reminds us, we stand at the edge of a new era. We must continually ask ourselves, "How are we to be Church? How are we to be effective missionary disciples and share the Good News in the context of 21st century Australia?"

'I am very much looking forward

to meeting with and listening to the People of God in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga as we seek to address these questions.

'My episcopal motto is "Learn who you are in the eyes of God". This line from the first homily of St Eugene de Mazenod is a reminder that God loves each of us and invites us into a relationship with him. God gives us what we need and I know He has been preparing me for this next mission. I experience this as a call from the Lord.'

Bishop Mark Edwards appointed to Wagga Catholic Diocese

by Rachel McDonald
Wagga Daily Advertiser

The Wagga Catholic Diocese is set to welcome a new bishop, over three-and-a-half years after his predecessor's retirement.

Pope Francis appointed Bishop Mark Edwards OMI as the sixth bishop of Wagga this evening.

Bishop Edwards, 61, was born in Indonesia and grew up across Adelaide, Darwin and Melbourne.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1986, and ordained as a bishop in 2014.

At that time he was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne.

Through the years Bishop Edwards has had various roles in secondary and seminary education, as well as studying science and philosophy at Monash University, obtaining a doctorate in the latter.

Bishop Edwards addressed the people of the Wagga diocese in a letter following his appointment.

"I am aware that I have much to learn, particularly about parish life and the joys and challenges of being a Catholic in Wagga," he said.

"Keen to listen to your stories and those of the Diocese, I come humbly, with deep interest and love."

His appointment comes after almost four years without a bishop in Wagga following the retirement of Bishop Gerard Hanna in 2016 due to ill health after more than a decade in the role.

Bishop Edwards paid tribute to Bishop Hanna and Archbishop Christopher Prowse of Canberra and Goulburn, who has overseen the Wagga diocese since 2016.

He will continue in that role until Bishop Edwards officially takes on the role with a date yet to be set for his installation.

The new bishop also praised the people of the diocese for their patience in the absence of a bishop.

"I thank you all for your perseverance, your patience and your

good will, which have enabled the Diocese to function so well over these last three-and-a-half years," he said.

Bishop Edwards said he expected his installation to be a small event due to coronavirus restrictions, but indicated he would be personally visiting members of the parish when possible and possibly holding a larger formal gathering to mark the occasion when restrictions ease sufficiently.

Archbishop of Melbourne Peter Comensoli praised Bishop Edwards ahead of the announcement.

"It is with great pleasure - and a twinge of sadness - that I welcome the appointment of Bishop Mark Edwards OMI as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Wagga," he said.

The announcement coincided with the catholic Feast Day of St Philip Neri.

"St Philip was a 16th century disciple well-known for his natural ability to connect with people and invite them to an encounter with the



risen Jesus," Archbishop Comensoli said.

"As Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne, Bishop Mark has shown this same missionary zeal, especially in his work with our young people and tertiary communities, and with the people of the Western Region of the Archdiocese for whom he has cared for these past four years as their Regional Bishop.

"He will be well-placed to listen to and lead the people of God in Wagga."

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga welcomes Bishop Mark

I had the honour of meeting with Bishop Mark on his recent visit to Wagga Wagga where he discussed his goals for the Diocese.

by Karene Eggleton

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga is abuzz with excitement. After nearly four years of waiting, prayer and hope, a new bishop has been named for the Diocese, and many are now asking when we will see him based permanently in Wagga.

While Bishop Mark is looking forward to his new appointment, he confirmed he has many projects in Melbourne that need completing, and many emails of congratulations to respond to. Upon completion of his responsibilities, he will spend five days on retreat and is hoping to arrive in the Diocese at some time later this month. He will spend the time until his installation on 22nd July visiting each parish and offering Mass. Bishop Mark acknowledged that visiting thirty-one parishes in three weeks is a tall order, and COVID-19 restrictions mean he may not be able to meet all parishioners during this time, but it is an ideal he hopes to achieve.

No doubt coronavirus restrictions will also affect how many can attend his installation, and Bishop Mark suggested that live streaming the event was a possibility to make it accessible to all.

I asked Bishop Mark what he intends to achieve as Bishop, and he spoke of the importance of wanting to just listen to people initially and really hear what they have to say.

As our conversation unfolded, Bishop Mark discussed his strengths in secondary education and formation, yet was humble in divulging his lack of knowledge about primary education and our parishes. "I don't know anything about what it feels like to be a Catholic in the Riverina."

Despite acknowledging this gap, Bishop Mark inspires with his forward-thinking approach. He plans to read the Diocese as individuals rather than a whole, stating he's, "not teaching a diocese but reading individuals."

He continued, "Two goals you have to have as a Catholic are to be disciples and missionaries. That involves community and sacrament—you can't be a disciple on your own. You're a community of missionary disciples. This is said as an undifferentiated goal, and how to get there will be helped by the Plenary Council."

Bishop Mark sees the Plenary Council as a gift, both for him personally and to the Church. He will be looking to the Plenary Council's discussions, deliberations, and resolutions to help steer the goals of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, and is hopeful the Diocese gets on board with interest and enthusiasm.

Bishop Mark sits on the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council and had the privilege of being



involved in the working group for the theme '*A Joyful, Hope-Filled and Servant Community*'. He worked alongside Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green with ten other members.

One of the responses to the discernment states:

If the Spirit of God is within us and our parishes, and if we allow the God in us to greet the God in the other, we will be joyful, hope-filled and servant communities. To achieve this we need to allow the space for Jesus to be in their lives. The primary need therefore is education in how, when, and where to pray, including contemplation and meditation on the scriptures, and the formation of prayer groups in parishes and Catholic organisations. Prayer must be at the centre of our Catholic life. In this way we become oriented to God's mission and allow space for God to take over and generate the energy for our ministries. Small Christian Communities, from prayer and reflection groups to full service groups, can lead parishes to become servant communities. We need to commit to finding better ways to engage with all our stakeholders, both within and outside our parishes, to truly be missionary, to truly be servant communities.

It's clear from this heartfelt response why Bishop Mark feels the Plenary Council will assist the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

I asked Bishop Mark how he knew Catholicism was his path, and he recalled the day he knew he wanted to be a priest. He was in Year 12 filling out his university admission form and wondering what to do the following year. It was at this point he realised he wanted to be a missionary. He stated God helped him see 'what his dream for him was and what Bishop Mark's dream for himself was'.

Bishop Mark joined the seminary to

be a missionary thinking this meant travelling to another country. He was surprised to be sent to a Catholic school in Queensland, and so began his journey of learning what a true missionary is and the importance of excellence. He spoke of excellence on a holistic level, rather than just excelling at a single subject. He also reflected it was not good enough that a school excels only at academics, rather they also need to excel at with spirituality, pastoral care, and other areas that underpin a student's wellbeing.

My discussion with Bishop Mark extended to his time in formation, where he learned how much he needed friendship with Jesus, the importance of reading, and how it becomes the food for prayer. He admitted to not being much of a reader prior to formation. "As priests if we don't read not only does it handicap our praying but it handicaps our preaching."

Having been an Auxiliary Bishop since 2014 he has learned how wonderful it is to administer the Holy Spirit. "To be there in front of a young person going to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit is a very special moment."

Bishop Mark acknowledged the great sadness amongst parishioners that their children and grand-children were no longer attending church and spoke of this being a new era of discovering the paths by which young people are happy to come to Jesus.

As our conversation drew to a close, Bishop Mark reiterated his excitement to be joining the Diocese yet his sadness at the people he is leaving behind in Melbourne.

On behalf of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, we are very excited to welcome you, Bishop Mark, and we look forward to setting goals and achieving excellence together.



A word of encouragement to the Catholic people of Australia

- From The Catholic Bishops of Australia -

Dear brothers and sisters,

Grace and peace to you in these Easter days. We write to you from a plenary meeting of the Bishops Conference which is like no other. Unable to meet face-to-face as we normally do, the bishops are meeting online for a week. We are intensely conscious of our isolation – not only from each other but also from you, the people whom we serve in the name of the Risen Lord. As we think of you, we make our own the words of St Paul: “So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Australia has certainly suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but not as grievously as some other countries. For that we thank God and we congratulate public health authorities and governments on their prompt and prudent responses. Australians in general have also shown the solidarity and good sense, the generosity and kindness needed in such a time. In our healthcare workers particularly we have seen an exceptional spirit of self-sacrifice, and for that we are all grateful.

The Churches and other religious communities have played their part, which has meant the suspension of public worship and the closure of places of worship. This has been a real deprivation, and the bishops understand not only your anxiety about the virus and shutdown but more especially your deep desire to return to the sacraments and to resume public worship. There is a real hunger in this. It is something we all feel, and we long for the time when our hunger will be satisfied as together we return to the feast of the Lord.

Even when our doors are closed, our hearts are still open. The churches may not yet be fully open, but the heart of the Church, which is the heart of Christ, is wide open. The celebration of Mass has never ceased. Though we and our brother priests cannot yet offer Mass with the people, we are still offering Mass day by day for the people – for all of you who are “flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone” (cf Genesis 2:23). The Church which is the Body of Christ still glows with the life of Easter, “thought to be dying, yet we are alive... to be sorrowful, yet still rejoicing... to have nothing, yet possessing everything” (2 Corinthians 6:9-10).

At the heart of the community of disciples, there is always Mary the mother of Jesus (cf Acts 1:14). In this month of May, Pope Francis has urged us to look to her to intercede for us in this time of affliction; and to Mary we will entrust our homeland later this month, looking to a mother’s unfailing love. May she who is Health of the Sick and Help of Christians pray for us now, that we may see Jesus with her eyes, the eyes of Easter, and love him with her heart, which is the heart of faith: “O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not our petitions but in your mercy hear and answer us” (Memorare).

The experience of shutdown has stirred great energy and creativity among people and pastors; this is producing unexpected gifts which we will take with us into the future. No locked door can keep the Risen Lord out; he is everywhere, even in this time of distress. “I stand at the door and knock,” he says. “If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come to you” (Revelation 3:20). We have heard his voice and opened the door to him who has come to us. That is the reason for our hope, even our rejoicing.

One important service which people of faith provide to the wider community in this time is

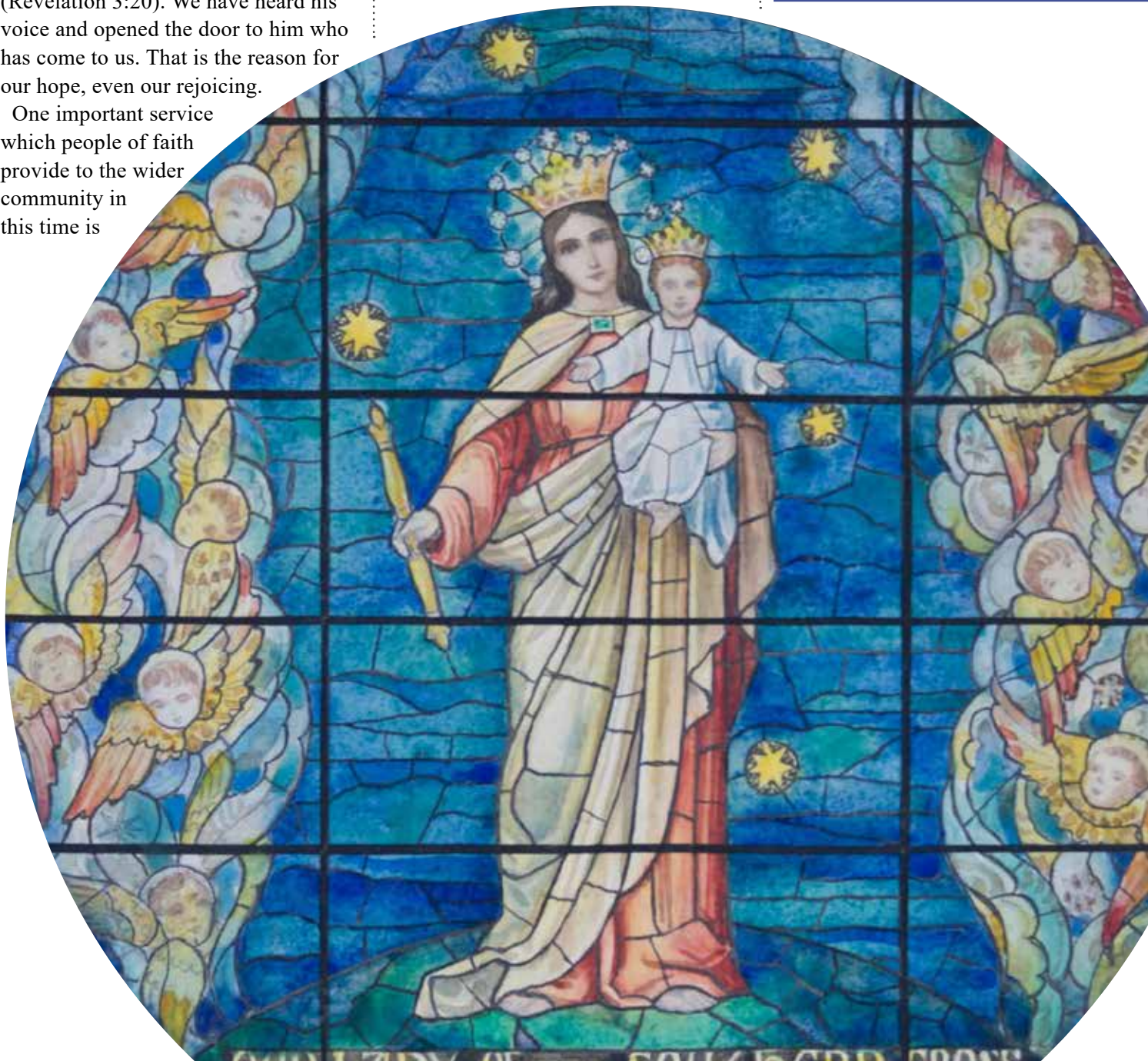
an unceasing prayer of intercession. So we ask you all to continue praying in the power of faith for those who have died, who are sick or at risk from COVID-19, for our healthcare professionals, essential service providers and researchers, for all who are isolated and anxious, and for our civic leaders and health authorities.

In the hope born of faith we look forward to the time when the crisis will pass and we will be able to resume fully the Church’s worship and mission, even in a landscape which may be quite changed. In the meantime, we are talking with the states and the federal government about the reopening of churches and the gradual relaxation of restrictions. We will work with governments and local authorities at each stage of any resumption of Church life. We commit to keeping ourselves and each other safe by observing strictly the advice regarding numbers, distancing and hygiene when the reopening of churches is permitted.

We urge people to abide by the best advice on how to keep themselves and others safe physically, emotionally and spiritually, especially the vulnerable elderly. That is why we recommend the live-streamed Masses and the many other resources offered on diocesan websites, our Catholic counselling services and the COVIDSafe App.

The season of Lent may be behind us, but this time of shutdown has been a kind of long Lent. Now, we pray, Easter is dawning as our country recovers from the pandemic and looks to build the future. There is no room for complacency but there is certainly room for the hope that Easter brings to birth, the hope that “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10-11).

Looking to the God of all grace, we send to you our blessing of peace and all consolation.



National Sorry Day: Aboriginal elders connecting community

In 2012, four Aboriginal elders in Western Sydney, founded the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation. Originally from other areas of NSW, their aim was to connect with families in the local community and to provide them with support and links to services they might need.

Grandmothers themselves, they wanted to help community members to heal from the past and connect with culture, whilst nurturing confidence and a sense of pride.

The work of Baabayn (which means ‘ancestral woman’) involves initiatives such as a Family Group gathering, Healing circles, Homework Club, Youth Group and a Mums and Bubs group. It also provides advocacy, counselling services and links to government departments, nurturing knowledge of spirituality and culture and bringing families together for special events, such as the ‘Say No to Ice Day.’

Caritas Australia has been working in partnership with the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation since 2019.

Eight years on, Baabayn’s directors, Margaret Farrell, Jenny Ebsworth, Elaine Gordon and Daisy Barker reflect on their achievements, as Australia marks National Sorry Day on May 26.

“We’ve got Sydney’s largest Aboriginal population here, so I think people need to know that there’s a place that they can come to and they’re welcome. I just love this place, I just love the whole concept of what we do here,” director, Jenny Ebsworth says.

“With the Homework Club, it’s really important because our kids really need that support because some of them don’t have computers. We also want to bring our elders out of isolation and give them a bit of hope. We really created something here and a lot of people from

the community come to Baabayn for advice, they have respect for us,” Jenny says.

Baabayn’s directors say that dealing with COVID-19 has been challenging.

“We’re not used to being apart, away from each other for a start and because we’re all older generation people, technology got us a bit bluffed but thank goodness we’ve all got children who are a bit techno. I think the main challenge is we can’t be in at the office to help our mob but we’ll get through it,” says director, Elaine Gordon.

Caritas Australia has been working with Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation to adapt its programs, in light of COVID-19, so that it can continue to help the community, by providing phone counselling and reaching out to community members through various forms of multimedia.

In addition to National Sorry Day on May 26, this year also marks the twentieth anniversary of the Reconciliation walks of 2000, when people came together across Australia to walk on bridges and roads to show their support for a more reconciled Australia.

The theme of this year’s National Reconciliation Week, which runs from May 27 till June 3, is #InThisTogether – a hashtag conceived long before the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – it’s about building relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal



and Torres Strait Islander people.

Although there has been some progress in this time, including greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land and sea rights, better understanding of the impact of government policies and acknowledgement of Aboriginal achievements, Baabayn’s directors believe there is still a long way to go.

“We were in Canberra the day before the apology, for me being Stolen Generation, I don’t think it was enough for myself,” says director, Margaret Farrell. “I was a bit disheartened... because I don’t think anything came out of the Apology myself, I mean it’s still going on.

“My family was split up. Everyone started coming back in the ‘80s but we never really had that connection as siblings growing up together. So that had a deep impact on my life. And it’s a cycle that keeps repeating itself. Now we’re bringing up our grandchildren and so it’s an ongoing cycle, so we try and break that cycle but it’s just continuing with our younger ones,” Margaret says.

Daisy Barker agrees.

“Well my father was taken in 1924 and nothing’s changed and it’s still going

on now,” she says. I was brought up on the river bank in poor housing and often hungry and with no shoes. This made schooling difficult for me. Taking children away caused families to be broken up and the trauma and suffering of broken families continues to this day. I think that a lot of people do not understand what we went through.”

“I don’t think we’ve had enough acknowledgment and I think it needs to be talked about more in this country,” says Elaine. “You know, as Aboriginal people, we’re still not getting a fair go and we’re there to offer support for those families.”

Baabayn’s directors say that working with Caritas Australia is helping to create a sense of hope amongst families and the community.

“We really appreciate that Caritas is willing to work with Baabayn and it’s really opened doors for us,” says director, Jenny Ebsworth. “It’s very important work and we really appreciate that you to be able to walk alongside us.”



ALAN HARRIS McDONALD

ALL YOUR FUNERAL NEEDS ARE NOW IN **ONE LOCATION**



76 Copland Street, Wagga Wagga

6921 4913

www.alanharrismcdonald.com.au

Crematorium



Chapel



Refreshments Room



A local message with a global impact

Just four simple words are comforting the lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable communities, as they face the devastating impacts of the global COVID-19 crisis.

#WeAreStillHere is the message of an awareness and fundraising campaign launched last week across social media by Catholic Mission, quickly becoming an international rallying cry for Catholic missionaries around the world.

“In times of hardship, it’s important that we stick together,” says Catholic Mission National Director Fr Brian Lucas.

“COVID-19 is having a significant impact on our mission partners and the Church, and it’s vital that we help support the work of mission to the most vulnerable in this time.

“Just four words—we are still here—constitute a simple message with great impact. It’s saying that those most in need are still being given the best practical and pastoral support during the

current global emergency.”
The organisation is also running an appeal for funds to ensure the critical work for children, communities and future church leaders can continue.
At the Eden Gardens Children’s Home in Nagaland, India, eight-year-old Nathaniel and sixteen other vulnerable children have no family or safe place to return to during the crisis. Meanwhile, their friends have returned home.
“For those children who have nowhere to go, Eden Gardens remains open all day, every day. Our mission is to help the kids, whoever is here, under any circumstances,” reported Fr Rajesh Lobo, director of the home.
Fr Lucas says missionaries around the world, like Fr Rajesh, remain dedicated to serving their communities despite the COVID-19 impact.



“They are there, supporting with solidarity and compassion, saying we are still here, doing our best to keep vital, life-changing projects running despite COVID-19 restrictions.”
Fr Lucas says Catholic Mission will remain in service to those in need around the world. “We are still here for our project partners in the same way that they are there for the children, communities and church leaders that they serve.”

**For more information and to support the appeal, visit catholicmission.org.au/Nathaniel or contact our local Diocesan Director, Jane Plum:
Tel 69370013 Mob 0400 445 605
Email jplum@catholicmission.org.au**



Recipes for a good, healthy life

For years Nabiha Koriaty has served up words of wisdom and platters of Lebanese food in her tiny restaurant on Baylis Street in Wagga Wagga. Now, she has published a book full of recipes for a good, healthy life.

by Kenji Sato - Wagga Daily Advertiser

The 79-year-old insists she isn't afraid of the coronavirus in the slightest, saying she has a clean bill of health and has never needed any form of medicine her entire life.
Mrs Koriaty attributes her good health to her active lifestyle and her faith in Christianity, which allows her to power through during the tough times in life.
"God renews your strength on the inside. Not on the outside, though, I look old on the outside," she said.
"God put me here for a reason and he keeps me alive for a reason."
Even in her old age she works busy 13-hour days, growing vegetables in her garden, cooking in her restaurant, and sharing life advice to those who come through her shop door.
Since opening restaurant in 1989 she become renowned as the go-to source

of life advice for those who have lost their way - people battling depression, suicidal thoughts, and drug addiction.
"Don't worry about what kills the body, worry about what kills the soul," she said.
"Drugs kill both the body and the soul together."
On one occasion, a 16-year-old Albury boy who suffered from drug addiction came begging for food, and she helped turn his life around with some choice words of wisdom.
On another occasion, a man told her that he beat his wife and children on a daily basis, but soon Mrs Koriaty got him to see the error of his ways and change for the better.
She has helped countless people overcome their life struggles over the years, and she has written down some of her memories into her new book.



Nabiha Koriaty says the ingredients to a good and healthy life are an active lifestyle, a faith in God, and plenty of pomegranate juice. Picture: Emma Hillier

The book contains all the knowledge she's accumulated over the years - her best-known Lebanese recipes, her advice for staving off colds, and her experience as a Lebanese refugee.
It also describes her recipe to living a good life, which include an active lifestyle, a desire to serve others, and plenty of pomegranate juice.
Mrs Koriaty says the book is now available for sale in her restaurant, Nabiha's Kitchen.



St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



Stage One have been busy recently creating some finger puppets to assist with the retelling of “The Journey to Emmaus.”



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga Wagga



The wonderful nature playground was finally available for the first time with students having watched its development for months. Our thanks to Katrina Nightingale for her tireless efforts managing the work. And thank you to the many families who have assisted in any way. We are forever grateful.



St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

Another lovely week at St Joseph's! Was great to have everybody back!



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga

The new building is now open!



It has been great to see these contemporary learning spaces come to life with staff and students now filling it. We look forward to having all students back next week.

St Joseph's Primary, Wagga Wagga

At the end of last term the students, who were attending school, designed thank you certificates to all the essential workers in our local area. This week the staff at Woolworths Gurwood Street returned the favour and gifted the students with some special treats.





Featured projects in May

- Help for the youth and family apostolate of the Salesian brothers in the parish of Adwa
- Help for the families of 18 catechists in the diocese of Dori, forced to flee from their homes by Islamist terrorists
- Mass stipends for the 32 priests of the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba
- Help for the training of catechists in the territorial prelature of Chuquibambilla, in the Peruvian Andes
- Success Story: 10 Mopeds for pastoral work in the Andaman and Nicobar islands

Help for the youth and family apostolate of the Salesian brothers in the parish of Adwa

Sitting in the east of the continent, on the so-called Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is a country filled with contradictions. On the one hand the country is showing strong economic growth, yet on the other there is widespread deep poverty. Within the national territory there are around 80 different ethnic groups, with widely differing cultures and languages. Some 58% of the 100 million or so population are Orthodox Christians of the Ethiopian rite. Catholics make up barely 2% of the population, although the Catholic Church maintains a great many schools, kindergartens and social care centres.

To take one example, the Salesians of Don Bosco are providing their important work of service in five different regions of Ethiopia. The congregation has been present in Ethiopia since 1975, and is engaged particularly in working to help disadvantaged young people, such as street children for example, providing them with a safe refuge, supporting and educating them and providing them with some form of vocational training.

The parish of Our Lady Help of Christians in Adwa, in the northern regional state of Tigray, was established in 1990 and is run today by the Salesians. It serves a community of around 220 Catholic faithful, most of whom live a hand to mouth existence.

The average monthly income of most families is equivalent to between 35 and 70 US dollars, which is barely enough to survive on. In addition there are many problems in the families and they need a great deal of support.

The Salesians base their work upon three main pillars – helping the children, the young people and the families.

It is crucially important work, and ACN is proposing to help with a contribution of AUD \$25,000 for the current year.

Help for the families of 18 catechists in the diocese of Dori, forced to flee from their homes by Islamist terrorists

The diocese of Dori lies in the far north of Burkina Faso, in the Sahel region. 95% of the population here are Muslims, while Christians make up only a tiny and widely scattered minority.

Since 2015 the north of the country has been plagued by a wave of Islamist terrorism, leaving over 750,000 people homeless and over 1000 schools closed. And the crisis is continuing, with an average of 4000 people still fleeing every day from the continuing terrorist attacks. There have been a number of massacres and abductions.

Among the many people who have been forced to flee are the lay catechists of the diocese, together with their families. Some of them have been able to find shelter and work in the



Financial aid for pastoral activities in favour of Mary Help of Christian parish in Adwa - 2020. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.

other dioceses of the country, but a number of them speak only the regional Gourmantché language, which is spoken only in a few regions of the country, and they are thus unable to work in the other regions. 18 of these families now need help to rebuild their lives here in the diocese of Dori. Among them is the family of one catechist, Philippe, a father of seven children who was murdered in a massacre in February of this year. ACN is proposing to help these 18 families with a total of AUD \$50,000, for food and lodging, medical care and essential help to rebuild their lives – for example by providing livestock so they can support themselves. For Church life today, in Africa in particular, would be unthinkable without these lay catechists. They fulfil a vital function in the parishes, especially where the faithful live scattered across wide regions. Will you help us to help them?

Mass stipends for the 32 priests of the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba

It is an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church to ask a priest to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for a particular intention, or for the soul of a departed loved one. The offering or stipend given to the priest by the individual concerned is in no sense to be seen as „payment“ but is instead a gesture of love and gratitude and support for the priest who, through the words of Consecration, again makes present the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the altar.

For priests living in many of the poorest countries of the world, such Mass offerings are often a vital support for their material survival. These priests receive no salary or regular remuneration, and the faithful themselves are frequently too poor to be able to support them. Hence, these Mass stipends are often the only means of support for these pastors – means which they also generously share with the

needy entrusted to their care, who come knocking at their door. For in many such countries the faithful turn to their priests for everything, seeking their help in every need, including their material needs. The priest is seen as a father and a shepherd and is expected not only to comfort souls but also to provide the people with food, medicines, clothing, schooling for their children and vocational training for the young. All of these people look with hope towards their priests.

Every year, thanks to the Mass stipends offered by our benefactors, ACN is able to support around 40,000 needy priests around the world. Among these are the 34 priests of the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba. For the profound economic crisis which affects the Cuban people has likewise had a painful impact on the Church. The ordinary faithful are generally too poor to be able to support their priests, or the various activities in the parishes.

We are consequently proposing to provide Mass stipends for these 32 priests of the diocese, to a total value of AUD \$18,000 – which represents just AUD \$560 for each priest, for the entire year.

Help for the training of catechists in the territorial prelature of Chuquibambilla, in the Peruvian Andes

The territorial prelature of Chuquibambilla lies high up in the Andes at an altitude of up to 16,000 feet (5000 m), in one of the poorest regions of Peru. 14 diocesan priests are currently working here in very difficult conditions – given that the close on 100,000 Catholic faithful within the prelature live widely dispersed in many small and often isolated settlements. The distances are large, and the roads bad. In many places there is no electricity, telephone service or Internet. In the rainy season many of the roads are impassable

continued on page 11...



BURKINA FASO: Social reintegration of 18 families of catechists from the diocese of Dori victims of terrorism. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

continued from page 10...

and many are flooded. Consequently, many of the villages can only rarely be visited by the handful of priests who are available. All the more important, then, is the work of the lay catechists, who live in the villages and are responsible for a major part of Church life in them. They prepare the faithful for the reception of the Sacraments, instruct them in the Faith and pray together with them.

First of all, however, these catechists need to have a sound knowledge of the faith that they will then pass on to others. Yet most of them are simple country people. And so the prelatore has established a series of training courses in order to equip these catechists, who are simply committed volunteers and offer their services freely and for nothing, with the necessary knowledge to carry out their important work. Some of them cannot even read and write and must therefore first follow a course in basic literacy. And at the same time teaching materials have to be produced in the local Quechua language, which is spoken among the majority of the population, most of whom cannot speak any Spanish.

The last course of this kind was given 11 years ago. So now it is high time for a new course to be given. All the parishes of the prelatore are sending candidates for these courses. This is vital work, since the life of the Church in this region would be unthinkable without the work of these lay catechists.

ACN is proposing to support these important training courses with a contribution of AUD \$25,000.

Success Story: 10 Mopeds for pastoral work in the Andaman and Nicobar islands

The Andaman and Nicobar islands are a chain of some 572 islands in the Indian Ocean which belong to the Indian union, only 37 of which are actually inhabited, however. Even on the inhabited islands, over one-third of the area is a rainforest reserve, and there are many different aboriginal tribes, including some entirely isolated ones who reject almost all contact with the outside world. Since the 1980s the population on these islands has been growing, as a result of migration from the Indian mainland. Today the total population is approximately 380,000 people – one-third of whom live in the capital, Port Blair.

The Catholic diocese of Port Blair has approximately 34,000 Catholics, almost all of whom are Nicobarese. The 16 parishes of the diocese are scattered across several islands, and there are over 500 small Christian communities. To travel between islands the priests need boats, of course; on the islands themselves, however, what roads there are are long and difficult to negotiate. Almost none of the parishes has a car, and the old bicycles and mopeds that are commonly used take a heavy battering from the rough roads and do not last long. And so, last year the diocesan administrator asked ACN for help to purchase 10 new mopeds for pastoral work. Thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, we were able to respond quickly with a donation of AUD \$15,000, and the mopeds have



1,200 Ordinary Masses have been requested for the 33 diocesan priests and the Archbishop this will help them to provide for their living costs. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.

now been purchased. So now the priests can once again reach the Catholic faithful in the scattered villages of the islands.

The ten priests who have benefited from these new mopeds have expressed their heartfelt gratitude, and the people are happy too. For thanks to your help, the diocese can now intensify its youth outreach, for example, and generally reach out more easily and more often to the Catholic faithful.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our benefactors!

Important note: The projects above are just a small sample of the project requests Aid to the Church in Need receives. Therefore when making a donation we recommend you specify your gift to "projects most in

need" that way your donation will be allocated to a project that desperately needs funding.

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

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



Ongoing formation of the catechists: First communion catechists - missionary children of a community Campesina. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.



Purchase of 10 motorbikes for Missionaries working in the diocese. Gifts from Aid to the Church in Need to the Diocese of Port Blair. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

Over 100 volunteer SRE Teachers generously donate their time each week to teach SRE in public schools in our diocese.

But classes are growing and we need more help.

If you are able to help an hour or two a week please contact **Trevor Dal Broi 0407 537 994** or catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au
Training is provided.

Parishes urgently needing SRE volunteers:

• Henty • Darlington Point & Colleambally • Berrigan & Mulwala

CEREAL, OILSEEDS, PULSES

"It all begins with seed"

- Insist on Hart Bros quality assured seed
- Growing, cleaning, sales and distribution of all broadacre seed varieties



- Cleaning, treating and sizing farmer's retained canola seed



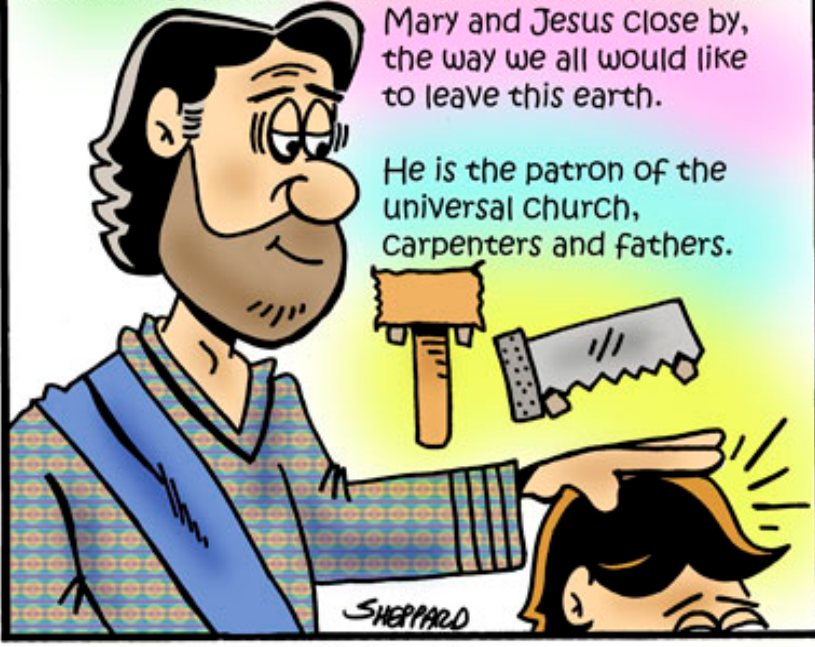
office@hbseeds.com.au • www.hartbrosseeds.com.au
Phone: 02 6924 7206 • Fax: 02 6924 7271
Coffin Rock Lane, Temora Rd Junee 2663

"Remember: Hart Bros Seeds Spring Field Day is 2nd Wednesday in October"

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.

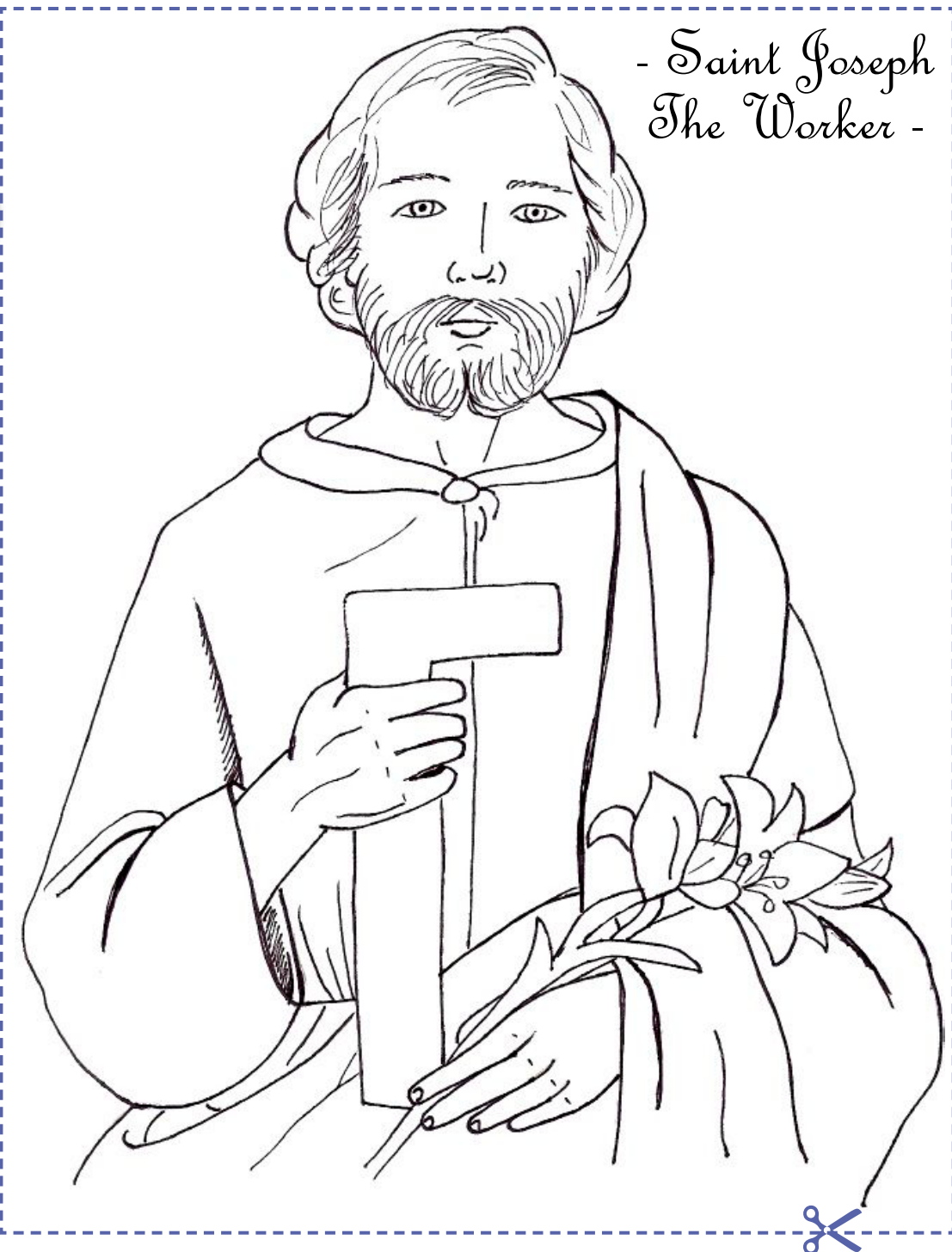


Spot the Difference...

Can you spot the 7 differences?
A huge thank you to Kate from St Mary's at Corowa for sending in this fantastic colouring in. We hope you enjoyed your prize pack.



Differences: Floor tile changed to blue, flame missing, robe changed to pink, hair colour changed, extra tiles on right hand side, age missing, sleeve changed colour.



- Saint Joseph
The Worker -

Send your coloured picture, word search or joke ideas with your name, age and school to:
Together Editor
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
We'd love to hear from you!



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
V	A	X	A	E	I	S	Q	N	H	S	H
K	N	T	N	L	I	P	K	A	P	U	I
N	I	A	I	D	Q	N	K	R	E	G	A
R	O	H	O	M	E	H	Q	D	S	S	S
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



LMD 6808 - Channel13 UHF
Hydraulic hose manufacturers and suppliers
Steel supplies, engineering and welding supplies
Dealers for Robin & Delta stationary engines

SMITH'S MOTOR GARAGE

58-60 GREEN ST LOCKHART
PH 02 6920 5556

- Authorised Mitsubishi Dealers -



Albury Audio Diagnostics

Audiology and Hearing Aid Clinic

Stephen Jacobs Audiologist BSc, DipAud, DipEd, MAudSA(CCP)

Our Services

- The selection, fitting and trial of hearing aids to improve your hearing
- Adult and Child Hearing Assessments
- Employment, WorkSafe Vic and WorkCover NSW Hearing Services

6023 1300



563 Wyse St Albury NSW 2640
www.alburyhearingaids.com.au



Lester & Son Funeral Directors

A tradition of personal, professional care since 1907



Cherie, Tony, John

359 Wantigong St
Albury
02 6040 5066

49 Thomas Mitchell Dr
Wodonga
02 6056 1700

www.lesterandson.com.au

All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available



www.centacareswnsw.org.au

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

Centacare Office Locations:

ALBURY	FINLEY	GRIFFITH	WAGGA WAGGA
440 Wilson Street 02 6051 0222	2 Corree Street 02 6051 0222	140 Yambil Street 02 6964 1447	201 Tarcutta Street 02 6923 3888

LILLYPILLY

Lillypilly Wines

Family Owned Boutique Winery

Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm
visit us and have a taste

47 Lillypilly Rd, Leeton NSW 2705
Tel: 02 6953 4069
www.lillypilly.com
www.facebook.com/lillypillywines

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ROB GEDDES MW
Australian Wine Vintages 2015
Lillypilly Noble Blend

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
JAMES HALLIDAY -5 STARS
Australian Wine Companion 2015

huon hooke .com 95
Lillypilly 2011 Noble Blend



GOLDEN APPLE SUPER STORE A GOOD PLACE TO SHOP AND SAVE

OPEN DAILY FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE
ONE-STOP SUPERMARKET

Part of the
Local Community
Since 1960



YANCO ROAD, LEETON Tel:69532000



4/41-43 Moorong St
Wagga Wagga
Ph: 6921 6366
Fax: 6921 6493

We sell Cattle at the Wagga Livestock Marketing
Centre every Monday and Sheep and Lambs every
Thursday and also offer a range of services:

- Paddock sales, over the hook sales and direct to feedlot sales
- On farm Stud Sales
- Auctions Plus Sales
- Clearing Sales
- Rural property sales

For any of your livestock or property
needs contact one of our friendly agents:

Tim Francis	0428 263 852
Alex Croker	0428 326 810
Matt Hawker	0418 861 320
Sam Sutton	0448 080 607
David Kosa	0432 064 188
Helen De Costa	0448 353 764

Email: livestock@hfrancisandco.com.au
www.hfrancisandco.com.au




PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER



WORKING
TOGETHER FOR
OUR GLOBAL
COMMUNITY

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO PROJECT COMPASSION

 lent.caritas.org.au  1800 024 413  #projectcompassion



End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity