



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

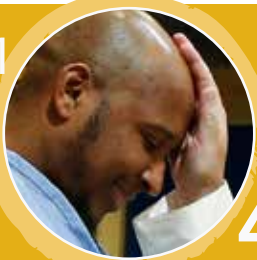
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FREE

NOVEMBER 2018

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NOVEMBER 11
**PRISON
SUNDAY**



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World Day of the Poor



Pope urges faithful to respond
to the 'cry of the poor'

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Youth - belong, believe & become



Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Apostolic Administrator
of the Wagga Wagga Diocese

These past weeks have been very much focused on our youth – both from local and international levels.

Internationally, the **Synod of Bishops in Rome** has just completed its month long focus on the topic “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” Our own youth assisted in an earlier document sent from Australia to given shape to these discussions in Rome. Soon Pope Francis will gather all these reflections and publish a post-Synodal Exhortation on the topic. It will shape our youth policies throughout the Catholic world for many years to come.

Locally (Archdiocese of Canberra-Goulburn), we have just recently celebrated the priestly ordinations of two of our youth, Frs. Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan. It was a wonderful time for us all. My prayer is that it will encourage other young people to indicate their readiness to consider seriously a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Then, of course, there is too the beautiful vocation to marriage and family life. Remaining single for the Lord is another important way of responding to the Lord’s call in life. We can talk a lot about careers, and so we should. However, the deep vocational call within must also be considered high in our priorities.

Mentioning a local youth focus makes me recall a recent gathering of youth leaders from our upper Primary to Middle Secondary schools in **Australia’s Year Of Youth**. It was part of Child Protection Week. I was quite staggered at the mature and articulate nature of our interaction throughout the morning. There

were searching questions for the Archbishop. At the same time there was an equally penetrating capacity to listen and respond.

As well, the gathering was also linked to our ongoing Listening Sessions of the **Plenary Council of Australia 2020/2021**. I am thankful our deanery groups around our Archdiocese are participating in this vital process. Thank you so much! Have you thought of inviting some of our youth to your sessions? Please do so. Also, don’t forget about our migrant groups too. They have wonderful insights to offer.

Despite whatever people may say about youth in the Catholic Church in general, I want you to know that one of most dynamic dimensions of our pastoral life at present in our Archdiocese is coming from our youth apostolate.

“Youth speaks to Youth” is a Gospel winning pastoral strategy that is championed by our youth leaders to their peers.

I heard recently one of our

youth leaders speak of the “3Bs” necessary for Catholic Life to a room full of youth. They were captivated by his presentation.

The first “B” is to BELONG. He talked of belonging to the community called Church. We cannot live life in splendid isolation from everyone else. We are social beings not individualists who think they have to “put up” with the rest of society.

The second “B” is to BELIEVE. This is about opening our entire lives to the greatest of all encounters – friendship with Jesus. Making Jesus our number one is both a grace and a decision of faith. With this newfound faith the arising spiritual hunger will be fed by (re)connecting with prayer, a thorough catechesis of Catholic beliefs, and sacramental participation.

The third “B” is to BECOME. We are to become the people God wants us to be – missionaries of mercy to a needy world. It must start in our family, among our

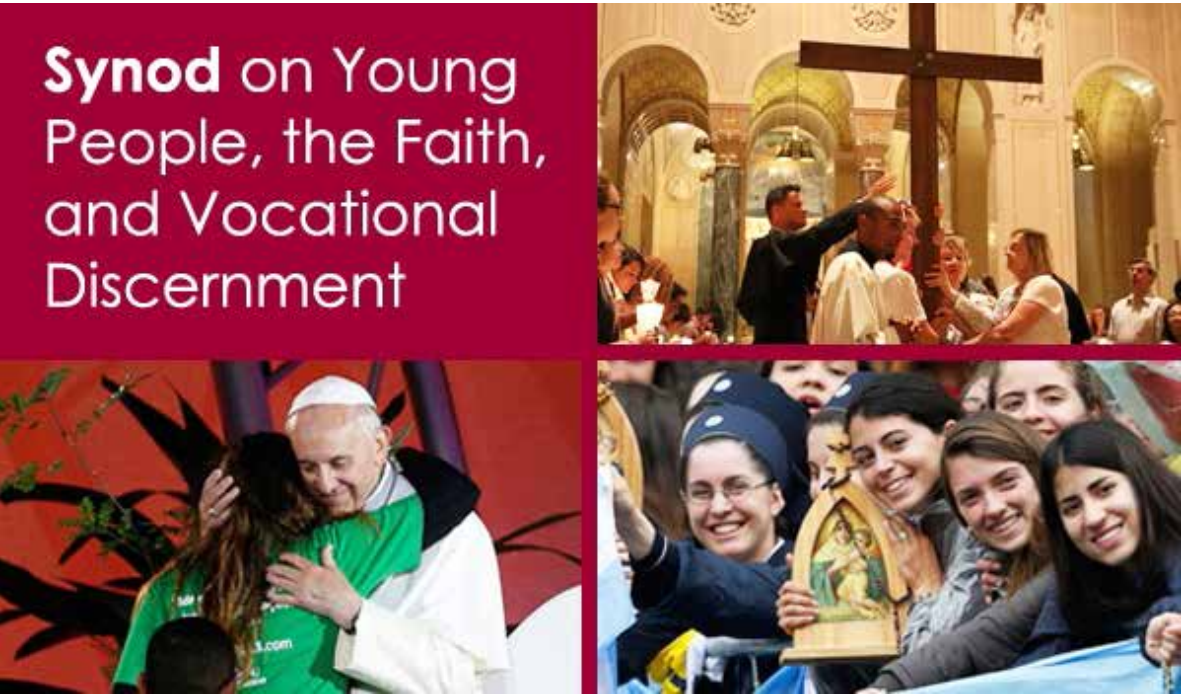
acquaintances, and then go out to the poor and abandoned of society.

It is this type of teaching from our youth leaders that is captivating so many of our youth at present. It comes from the mouths of youth to the hearts of other youth. Please pray that this continues to grow!

So in this **2018 Year Of Youth** we can feel the Holy Spirit flourishing in our youth. It may be only a small spark at present, but we know in Australian summers how a fire spark can have a huge effect on the dry land.

May I remind you finally that in November we pray particularly for “our departed brothers and sisters”. This is an important responsibility for all of us in the Faith.

Let us pray sincerely to the Lord Jesus to “renew the face of the world” and start with us! For this we pray!



Synod on Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment

Prayer Intention for November

Universal: In the Service of Peace

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

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

Prayer for the month...

Lord, God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried. But our efforts have been in vain.
Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us, and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.
Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be “brother”, and our way of life will always be that of Peace.
Amen.

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

TOGETHER

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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.

Pope urges faithful to respond to the “cry of the poor”

In his message for the second World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis has called for a new evangelisation that prompts Catholics “to make tangible the Church’s response to the cry of the poor”.

In a letter to clergy throughout Australia, Bishops Commission Bishop Terence Brady encouraged all Catholic communities to be involved and respond to the theme of day: “This poor man cried and the Lord heard him” (Psalm 34:7).

The World Day of the Poor will be celebrated this year on November 18.

“The Holy Father notes that there are many different forms of poverty and he asks us to consider ‘Who are the poor?’,” Bishop Brady said.

“He describes how we only recognise the voice of the poor in silence and then, having listened, we must answer. Our response, he suggests, calls for a ‘loving attentiveness which

honours the person ... and seeks out his/her best interests’.”

Pope Francis inaugurated the World Day of the Poor at the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016. The Pope’s 2018 message was signed on the feast day of St Anthony of Padua (June 13), the patron of the poor.

Pope Francis said: “The World Day of the Poor wishes to be a small answer that the Church throughout the world gives to the poor of every kind and in every land, lest they think that their cry has gone unheard.

“Often I am afraid that many initiatives, by themselves meritorious and necessary, are intended more to please those who undertake them than to really acknowledge the cry of the poor.

“We are so entrapped in a culture which obliges us to look in the mirror and to pamper ourselves that we believe that a gesture of altruism is sufficient without compromising ourselves directly.”

Pope Francis explained poverty

“is not brought on by itself, but is caused by selfishness, pride, greed and injustice”.

“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society,” he said.

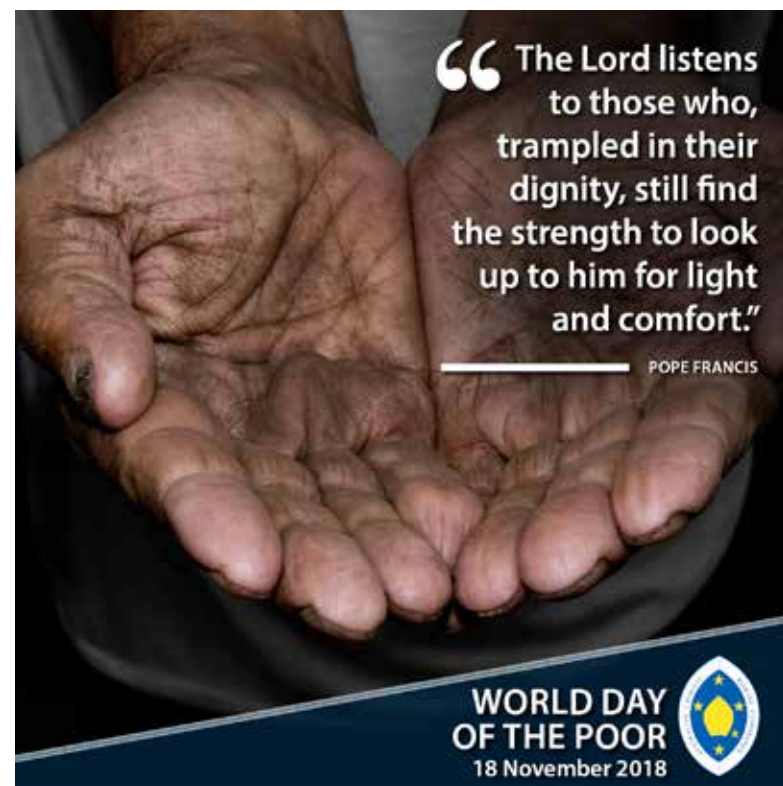
“In order to overcome the overwhelming condition of poverty, it is necessary that the poor perceive the presence of brothers and sisters who show concern for them and who, by opening the door of their hearts and lives, make them feel like friends and family.”

Bishop Brady said Pope Francis invites us to make concrete the words of the Psalm 22:27: “That the afflicted shall eat and be satisfied.”

“His message contains a very practical suggestion: the sharing of the Sunday meal with the poor,” Bishop Brady suggested.

“I encourage you to sow the seed of this idea, inviting parishioners and the homeless to share a meal after Mass on or around November 18, as the Pope calls us to celebrate in the spirit of joy for the rediscovery of our capacity for getting together, stating that ‘Praying together as a community and sharing a Sunday meal is an experience which takes us back to the earliest Christian community’.”

The Holy Father has invited “priests, and in particular deacons, on whom hands have been laid for the service of the poor (Acts 6: 1-7), as well as religious and the lay faithful – men and women – who in parishes, associations and ecclesial movements make tangible the Church’s response



to the cry of the poor, to live this World Day as a special moment of new evangelisation”.

Pope Francis concluded his message by saying that “the cry of the poor is also a cry of hope which manifests the certainty of being liberated”.

**Prayers of the Faithful
33rd Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

**World Day of the Poor
Sunday 18 November 2018**
Celebrant:

Heavenly father, we have listened to your words of life and love for us all. In these “days of tribulation”, we place before You the prayers of Your people.

Reader:

We pray for Pope Francis as he leads our Church: May he continue to be a prophet to the signs of the times. Lord hear us.

We pray for the leaders and members of the Church in Australia: May we give witness in our lives to the Gospel

commitment to care for the poor and needy. Lord hear us.

We pray for our civic leaders: May they legislate to bring about a more just society, which recognises and helps the most marginalised of our nation.

Lord hear us.

We pray for all people of our world: May we be people of peace; at one with each other and all creation. Lord hear us.

We pray for our community: May we follow the example of Jesus and be people who reach out to those in need.

Lord hear us.

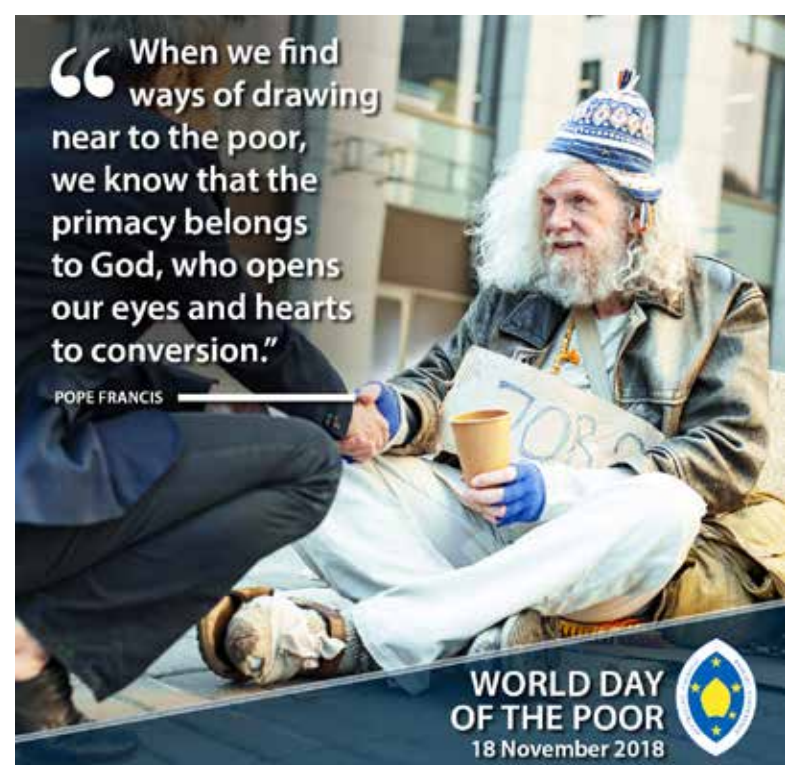
We pray for those who have died alone, unloved and unmourned: May they now celebrate in the banquet of heaven.

Lord hear us.

We pray for our own needs: (Pause) Lord hear us.

Celebrant:

Heavenly Father we ask you to hear these prayers, those spoken and those of our hearts, and grant them through Christ Our Lord. Amen



Catholic Church stands with Prime Minister

In a joint statement, issued on October 22, the leaders of Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) have welcomed Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s apology to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and recommitted to working with the community to eliminate

the scourge of child sexual abuse.

“The National Apology today and the apologies made by institutions during the life of the Royal Commission and since have been an important validation of the courage of survivors of abuse in seeking truth, justice and healing. We think first of them at this time,”

said CRA president Sr Monica Cavanagh RSJ.

“On behalf of the Catholic bishops and religious leaders of Australia, we renew our profound and heartfelt apology to all victims and survivors of abuse and to their families, friends and supporters, who have shared their suffering.”

Archbishop Mark Coleridge,

president of the ACBC, said abuse perpetrated by priests, brothers, sisters and lay people was “an utter betrayal of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and it should never have happened”.

He said the Catholic Church acknowledges that today’s apology was for survivors and their supporters, not for representatives of institutions.

Many Catholic dioceses, communities, schools, ministries and agencies are holding local events to mark the National Apology – something Archbishop Coleridge called **“a significant moment in our ongoing efforts to make Australia safe for all children and young people”.**



Prison Sunday to focus on youth justice

Inspired by the Australian Catholic Church's Year of Youth, the focus of Prison Sunday on November 11 will be youth justice and juvenile detention.

Prison Sunday commenced in 2016, during the Year of Mercy, as an initiative of Pope Francis to observe the Jubilee for Prisoners.

"We need to nourish the roots of our hope so that they can bear fruit ... despite whatever evil we have done. There is no corner of our heart that cannot be touched by God's love," Pope Francis said at the time.

Bishop Terry Brady, Bishops' Delegate to the Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council (ACPPCC) and chair of the Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life, said youth

detention systems in some Australian states and territories were under significant stress, leaving vulnerable young people without the services they need to turn their lives around.

"At any time, for example in Victoria, there are around 200 children and young people, aged between 10 and 24 years old, incarcerated in youth justice centres. The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory last year also highlighted the need for fundamental reform in detention and child protection systems in the Northern Territory," he said.

"Prison Sunday provides a time for all Catholics to think about the conditions in our prisons

and what we as Catholics – in our schools, parishes and welfare organisations – can do to make a difference.

"As the ACBC Social Justice Statement noted in 2011-2012, we know that the majority of Australia's prisoners come from the most disadvantaged sections of the community: Indigenous people, the underprivileged and those suffering mental illness.

"Prison chaplains are a key group working alongside prisoners, their families and prison authorities. Through their ministry they personify the Scripture quote from the Book of Ruth: 'Wherever you go, I shall go'.

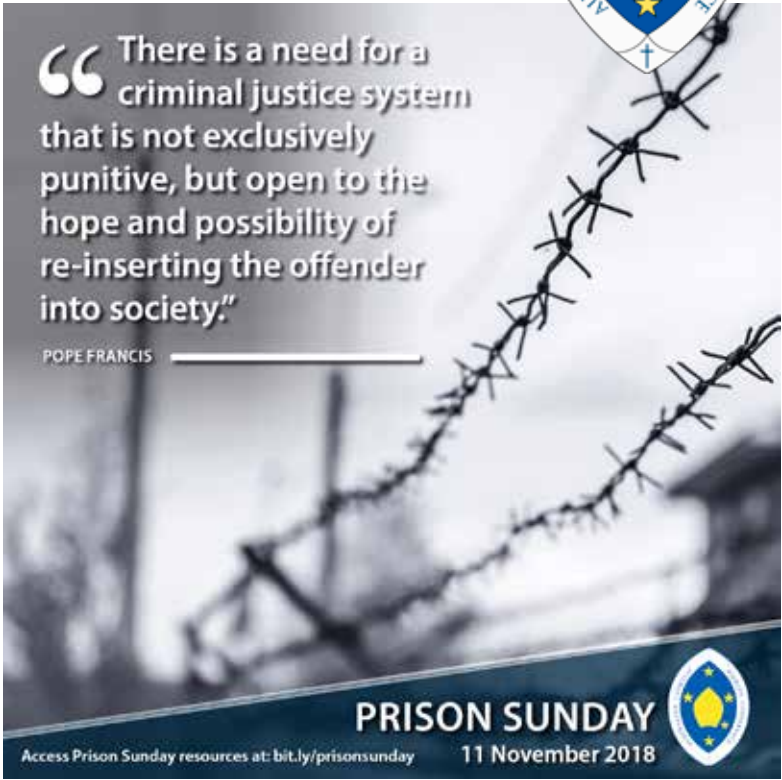
"We thank those working in prison chaplaincy for their tireless, difficult and dedicated work, serving those unseen members of our community and supporting prisoners' families through trying times," Bishop Brady said.

"We pray also at this time for those innocent people impacted by crime and the affect that crime has had on their lives.

"We remember the words in our Prayer for Prisoners, that God has great love for us all and that he is a 'God of Mercy and forgiveness'."

Bishop Brady said many parishes were involved in promoting understanding and inclusivity of marginalised people.

"There is much that parishes can do to reach out and build bridges with prisoners and



their families – by becoming a prison visitor; serving as a court volunteer; providing Society, CatholicCare and Jesuit Social Services.

"Many Catholic Church

"Such initiatives are especially important when prisoners prepare for release to develop support structures that might prevent the circumstances that lead to reoffending."

family support post-release; and fund-raising to provide toiletry packs for prisoners on release," he said.

"Such initiatives are especially important when prisoners prepare for release to develop support structures that might prevent the circumstances that lead to reoffending."

Bishop Brady encouraged parishes to have conversations with their local prison chaplain and related organisations working in this area, such as the local Saint Vincent de Paul

agencies work in this area and can be valuable sources of information to discover how parishes can help those in need," he said.

Prayer for Prisoners

God, Our Creator,
We acknowledge the ancestors
and original owners of this land.

Maker and spirit of earth and all creation
let your love possess our land and may we
share in faith and friendship, all your gifts.

We pray for all those in our prisons and those
who through sickness, addictions and other
reasons live in their personal prisons.

We remember and pray
for those who seek to change
difficult life stories.

We remember and pray
for the victims of crime on the outside.

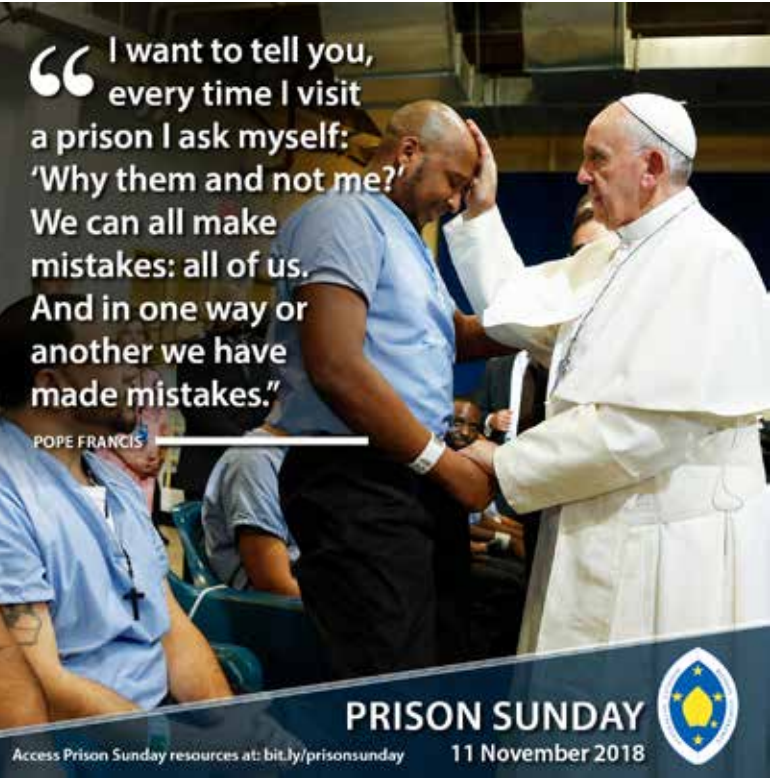
We remember and pray
for the countless victims of
crime on the inside.

We remember and pray
for the whole criminal justice system
and its processes.

Keep all of us ever mindful of your great love
so that we may always remember you as a
God of Mercy and forgiveness.

Amen.

Australian Catholic Prisoners
Pastoral Care Council
www.catholic.org.au



"I want to tell you,
every time I visit
a prison I ask myself:
'Why them and not me?'
We can all make
mistakes: all of us.
And in one way or
another we have
made mistakes."

POPE FRANCIS

Prayers of Intercession

Remembering the Prison Community
Marking two years since the Holy Father's Year of Mercy 2016 Jubilee for Prisoners
Sunday 11 November 2018
Introduction:

As we call to mind the need for compassion and care for those in prison in Australia, we offer these prayers to our compassionate God.

Petitions:

We pray for our Church

leaders who in following Christ's example, may be compassionate, welcoming, and hospitable to prisoners, bringing them comfort and assurance.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for all our political leaders, especially those responsible for prisoners and detainees; in the light of restorative justice, may they come to an understanding of the educational, psychological and rehabilitation needs of all

in their care, especially the youth.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray that in this Year of Youth, Christian young people may be a shining example to others that true joy, peace and success can be achieved without recourse to illicit drugs.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for all who are in prison or detention: that even though surrounded by bars and many restrictions, they

receive your grace to know and understand true freedom of spirit.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for the families of prisoners: that they have the strength, patience and care to support their loved ones who are in prison, and that one day soon, to receive them back into their lives and their homes with love and forgiveness.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for those who work in the prison system, particularly chaplains and pastoral visitors. May they have the

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Prison chaplain brings God's light and hope to youth on the margins

For Melbourne youth prison chaplain Jwan Kada, the life-giving freedom of Jesus Christ can be found in every prison cell.

Reflecting on her vocation in the lead-up to Prison Sunday on November 11, the 33-year-old former Iraqi refugee is living her Catholic faith well outside the four walls of her close-knit Chaldean community.

"This ministry sets me free," Jwan said of the personal rewards gained while helping disengaged and abandoned youth in detention.

Inspired by Pope Francis' vision of a humble, merciful Church working in the community, the Catholic Regional College Sydenham teacher's personal life journey helps her to connect with the young men she visits.

"I left Iraq in 1996. I was 11. We left because my dad passed away and mum was alone with four young children. I was one of them," she said.

Settling into Australia with no income was initially challenging, but Jwan and her family made it through and are eternally grateful for the support from their Chaldean Catholic community.

Coming from a country with only 2 per cent Christians, Jwan knows what it's like to feel isolated and on the margins of society.

After being heavily involved in her Melbourne Church community throughout her teens and early adult life,

Jwan studied a master of arts specialising in theology. She travelled to the United States to discern religious life, but found another vocation where she thought she could make a difference – teaching.

However, it was in youth detention, ministering to disengaged young men aged 12 to 18, where she found her true calling.

"I wanted a radical ministry. I went to Parkville Youth Justice Centre in Melbourne and I just fell in love with it. I visited at Christmas and from that first moment it felt like I was set free," she said.

"I really enjoy working with young people and that's why I chose teaching. They really showed me who God is and what the Church can be.

"I felt I could find the Church in a prison – it doesn't have to be just a building. What also attracted me to prison chaplaincy is Pope Francis' vision of a humble, merciful Church.

"I love the Church; the Church is in everything I do.

"I work mainly with young men who have really struggled and are trying to find hope inside prison walls. They come from really terrible backgrounds, have suffered and are just holding on; and I guess you become the face of hope for them and a reason to live.

"That's the saddest thing when you meet young people who have parents who are incarcerated, and deal with

issues of drugs and alcohol and mental health issues. Most of them understandably end up committing some crime.

"I feel like they're disposed of (by society) and I really want to be there with them in their feeling of darkness.

"I probably can't resolve all their issues, but I want to share in their darkness to help them find some light. Sometimes you are the only light they encounter."

For the past four years, Jwan has visited the Melbourne youth detention unit for young men, aged 18 and under, convicted or on remand for various crimes.

"Some are as young as 12, which is really heartbreaking," she said.

"The most effective thing we can do for young people in detention is to have post-release programs in place to help them reintegrate back into society. Deep formation of young people is much needed.

"Prison chaplaincy is really life-giving and if you want to connect on a deeper level with humanity at its rawest and truest form, prison is probably the most vulnerable place that you can encounter humanity.

"You are really visiting Jesus in prison."

With 2018 being the Year of Youth, the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life is focusing on juvenile detention for Prison Sunday on November 11.

Prison Sunday began in 2016 as an initiative from Pope



Jwan Kada, Melbourne Youth Prison Chaplain

"I probably can't resolve all their issues, but I want to share in their darkness to help them find some light. Sometimes you are the only light they encounter."

Francis in the Year of Mercy to raise awareness about prisoners and their families. Much support is needed for prisoners when they are released into the community and parishes throughout Australia can make a difference, especially through

the service of prison chaplains.

For more information about Prison Sunday and how to become a chaplain contact your local diocesan or parish office or email: pastoral.life@catholic.org.au.

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clarity of vision and purpose to always put the needs of prisoners first.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for those held in juvenile detention: May they experience guidance and loving correction through the care and support of those who are responsible for their well-being.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

We pray for ourselves that while always remembering the imprisoned, we remain aware of our own weakness and be thankful for the guidance and protection we have received.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

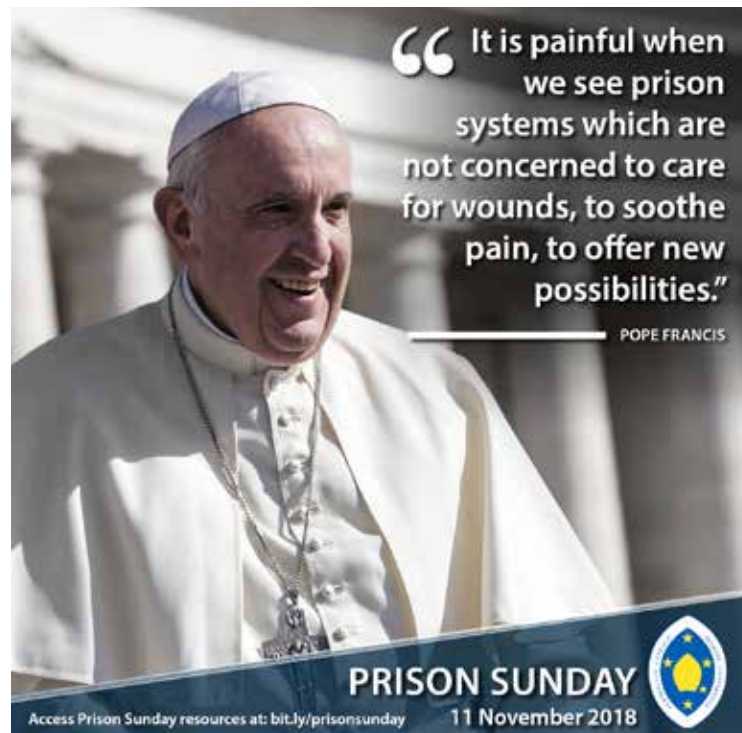
We pray for the victims of crime that through a spirit of forgiveness, they will find healing and comfort in their distress.

(Pause) Lord hear us.

Conclusion:

Father, your own Son was a prisoner even in his innocence. Grant these prayers through your divine mercy and compassion as we present them in faith to you in the power of the Spirit and the name of Jesus.

Bishops Commission for Pastoral Life – Australian Catholic Prisoners Pastoral Care Council, October 2018



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White Ribbon Day 2018:

An epidemic we have to bring to an end

by **Karene Eggleton**
Editor/Designer of Together

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) is a global movement of men and boys working to end male violence against women and girls. It was formed by a group of men in Ontario in November 1991 as a response to the Montreal massacre of female students by Marc Lépine in 1989. The campaign was intended to raise awareness about the prevalence of male violence against women, with the ribbon symbolising the idea of men ‘giving up their arms’.

White Ribbon is active in over 60 countries with the movement seeking to promote healthy relationships, gender equity, and a compassionate vision of masculinity.

Much of their work centres around gender violence prevention which includes educating and mentoring young men about issues such as violence and gender equality. Men and boys are encouraged to wear white ribbons as a symbol of their opposition to violence against women. They are particularly encouraged to wear these during White Ribbon week which starts on 25 November which is the **UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.**

This year, in Australia, the day has been moved to 23 November to become a specific campaign day separate to the international day, and expanded to encompass violence against children.

Whilst there has been controversy around White Ribbon Day being only about violence against women and girls, I don’t believe it’s goal was ever to negate the male experience of violence. Men and boys are victims of violence too and it

can occur across all ages, and all socioeconomic and demographic groups, but statistics show that predominantly it affects women and children.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), on average, 8 women and 2 men are hospitalised daily in Australia after being assaulted by their spouse or partner. “The seriousness of these issues cannot be overstated,” AIHW CEO Barry Sandison said.

“Looking only at the numbers can at times appear to depersonalise the pain and suffering that sits behind the statistics.”

Many people who have been lucky enough not to experience violence in their lives struggle to understand why a woman stays in her abusive relationship. This is a complex topic but in short domestic violence usually involves being controlled and traumatised, so much so that a victim can have distorted thoughts and think that some how they deserved it. Victims usually have a very low sense of self worth and have a valid fear of leaving. Family expectations can play a part as too can one’s faith. Women are often financially reliant upon their partner and have no support system around them. Women also think that by staying they are protecting their children.

I spoke to Willow, a local woman, about her experience of domestic violence not once but twice and how she used her faith to gain strength.

“I grew up in a loving, supportive and faith filled home and never understood why women stayed in domestic violence. I would often say *‘if anyone ever laid a finger on me I’d leave in a heartbeat’*.

Fast forward a few years and here I was in a situation completely unfamiliar to me. Newly married, pregnant, full of hope and being beaten violently daily.”

Willow said the violence began when she fell pregnant and involved physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse on a daily basis. Willow’s parents divorced when she was a child so she was adamant



that she wasn’t going to raise a child in a ‘broken home’. She was determined to stay and ‘fix’ things so her child could experience a loving home. Despite Willow being choked, punched, beaten, often hospitalised and told she was worthless every day whilst pregnant she was determined to make it work.

Willow told me she felt great shame at having gotten herself into this situation. She felt it was her fault and that somehow she deserved this. She didn’t want to get a divorce as marriage was sacred and she took her vows very seriously. Willow was in a very dark hole and felt she had no way of getting out. She was terrified every day that it would be her last day on Earth. I can only imagine that this is what it would feel like living in a war zone under constant fear for your life.

Willow said that years later her mother told her that, during that time, every time the phone rang she thought it would be the police to inform her that her beloved daughter had been murdered. Willow had no idea the impact it had on her extended family.

Willow recalled when she had spent a year doing up her dream car from a bare shell. She had finally put the last coat of paint on it and taken it home to show her husband. He flew into a rage

of jealousy and took to it with a baseball bat, smashing every panel and window in the car. Willow was gutted.

Willow said her turning point was when her husband threw a glass jar at their child’s head and thankfully missed. Willow left with her child and the clothes they had on, leaving everything else behind.

“I didn’t want my child to experience a broken home but finally realised my home was very broken.”

Willow found herself homeless, broke and scared. She questioned why this was her lot in life. Why me? Sadly for Willow the abuse didn’t end there. Each home she moved into, her husband found her and would break in and assault her. **Willow knew that God only gives you what you can handle and she knew that if she didn’t move states her and her child would eventually be killed.** That was 20 years ago and Willow has gone on to live a a very full life, until recently her faith was tested yet again.

Willow finally got married to a man who swept her off her feet and welcomed the news of pregnancy with excitement. That’s when the abuse began but this time a punch was never thrown, a beating never received, it was verbal. “I found it more insidious, I felt I was older and wiser and would



never get myself into an abusive relationship again but here I am again. The shame was tenfold, how incredibly embarrassing. I felt like an absolute failure, I’m an intelligent woman who has strong values of marriage and here I am reading up on stonewalling and gas lighting as I had no idea what I was suddenly a part of.”

“Again, I felt like I could somehow ‘fix’ it and spent a long time doing just that. I also spent a long time losing my sense of worth, losing me. I’d spent years learning to love me again so I wasn’t about to give me up that easily.”

“Again, I felt I deserved it, I felt deep shame and felt I would be judged by others for having failed ‘yet again’.”

“It’s not like on the first date they tell you are worthless. Domestic violence is a slow process, you

continued on page 7...

Most at risk:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women
- Young women
- Pregnant women
- Women with disabilities
- Women experiencing financial hardships
- Women and men who experienced abuse or witnessed domestic violence as children.

continued from page 6...

are built up, dragged in and then torn down. My beautiful, happy, loving home had become a nightmare I loathed returning to everyday.”

“I remember asking for a hand in the kitchen and being punished with silent treatment for a week, he would look through me as though I was the most hideous thing to walk this planet. I spent the week beating myself up and searching for what I had done wrong and how I could do things differently, surely if I was a good wife my husband wouldn’t feel the need to ignore me.”

When Willow tried to discuss what had happened she was met with rage and her husband screamed in her face that if she hadn’t of been so lazy then he’d never of had to punish her. Sadly, Willow miscarried and was left to do that on her own, her husband telling her that he’d prefer to spend the night with the dog then help her. Willow said she still felt if she was just ‘nicer’ then somehow their marriage would

work. It took Willow a long time to realise that no matter how nice you are the abuse doesn’t end, it just escalates. It wasn’t long until he told her that if she ever left him he would shoot her.

Willow fell pregnant again and was met with rage and accusations by her husband. She knew that to protect her child she would have to leave. She again found her strength in her faith and knew that somehow God was sending her this hurdle to learn and grow.

“Emotional abuse is not taken as seriously as physical abuse as there’s no physical evidence. There’s no bruises or broken bones but there’s plenty of emotional bruises and a very broken heart. I can remember the police doubting my story as I’d never actually seen the gun he was threatening me with. I had no doubt in my mind that if I ever saw that gun it would be the last thing I saw.”

“My family and friends didn’t believe me as they’d never witnessed the abuse and of course

my husband was ‘such a lovely man’.”

“When someone discloses abuse, please believe their experience as it may be the first time they are reaching out with a very scared and shaky hand. The last thing you want is for them to return to the abuse and risk their lives.” A good resource for what to do when someone discloses violence can be found at: www.whiteribbon.org.au

AIHW states that in Australia 1 woman per week and 1 man a month is killed as a result of violence from a current or previous partner. Domestic violence is considered an epidemic and is on the increase.

Referring to the ‘*Woman and Man: One in Christ Jesus Report*’ (1999) on the Participation of Women in the Catholic Church in Australia, the Australian Catholic Bishops quote Pope St John Paul II who wrote: “Transcending the established norms of his own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness.”

Violence against women has no place in our society, the Australian Catholic Bishops stress.

“Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching.”

As Pope Francis notes and the Australian Catholic Bishops reiterate: “Doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights. Even so, we constantly witness among them impressive examples of daily heroism in defending and protecting their vulnerable families.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 212)

Willow thought the Church would turn it’s back on her but experienced quite the opposite. Some abused women believe that the Catholic Church teaching on the permanence of marriage requires them to stay in an abusive relationship. They may hesitate to seek a separation

Pope Francis, in his 2016 exhortation, *The Joy of Love (Amoris Laetitia)*, acknowledges that domestic violence exists in families in our Church and our parishes, and declares that it is not something we can turn a blind eye to.





Together we can end men’s violence against women in Australia

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Friday 23 November

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13 11 14 - 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

1800RESPECT
1800 737 732 - National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling and information referral service, available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Daisy Connecting Women
- This is an app developed by 1800RESPECT to connect people experiencing violence or abuse to services in their local area.

No To Violence
1300 766 491 - the peak body for organisations and individuals working with men to end family violence in Victoria and New South Wales.

Kids Helpline
1800 55 1800 - Free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25. Any time, any reason 24/7.

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Get over yourself: the only way to prepare for the Plenary Council

by Shane Dwyer
Director - National Centre for Evangelisation

If by now you haven't heard that the Church in this country is preparing for its first Plenary Council since the 1930's you may not have been paying attention. It has been on the radar for some years now, even prior to the Royal Commission into the institutional response to child sexual abuse that many mistakenly believe has prompted the call for the Council. You might recall the 'Year of Grace' in 2013, which was held as a way for us to begin to prepare for this event. So, we have been on the road for at least five years now. In the last year it has gone up a notch, with the formal launch of the preparation and dialogue phase occurring at Pentecost this year.

Since the formation of the Plenary Council Planning Committee I have acted as a consultant, in theory providing assistance on any theological matters that arise. I say 'in theory' because I've seen that the committee members themselves have this area pretty well covered. I continue to

attend the meetings not so much because I believe I am needed, but because I find myself inspired as I listen to the way those attending to this important work talk about their hopes and desires for the Church in this country. A guiding conviction that has emerged from this committee is that all people, no matter their degree of affiliation with the Church, be welcomed to the discussion and have a voice on who we are as Church into the future.

This is not an easy road to take. Having sat with a number of groups throughout Australia as they seek to prepare their submission to the Plenary Council, I have come across a recurrent snag. It relates to how groups instinctively go about the listening and dialogue process. From what I have seen it comes down to the basic predisposition of the more forthright members of the group. For those where the dominant figures are comfortable with prayer and open dialogue, the group functions more or less as the planning committee has intended. The discussion begins with prayer and silence, where each person present attempts to get in touch with what they believe God is asking of us

today. Because the discussion is grounded in prayer, people then more easily share their stories and insights, knowing that while not everyone might connect with what they are saying, they will be heard and respected. This allows them to be non-defensive and, therefore, open to modifying their views when they listen to what others have to say.

It becomes another matter altogether if the dominant figures either foreshorten the prayer and silence, or dispense with it altogether. In those circumstances I notice a more adversarial approach. Instead of focusing on what each of us believes *God is asking of us*, the question much more quickly becomes *what do I think is wrong with the Church?* Or, *what are my personal opinions about what 'the Church' should be doing?* In these circumstances I notice two inevitable outcomes. The dialogue either curtails very quickly or it becomes argumentative. Instead of the inspirational sort of encounter that I referenced above, people feel shut down and confirmed in their view that the Church is not a place where their experiences and insights are welcomed.



Shane Dwyer, Director - National Centre for Evangelisation

Hope begins to fade, and those who are already disillusioned with the Church remain so.

So I end with a plea. The journey to the Plenary Council began in 2013 with the Year of Grace: a year in which we were invited to 'Contemplate the Face of Christ'. We were invited to do this, not as a 'one off' but as the beginning of a deep conversion process. We are being invited to reflect again on what it truly means to be the disciples of Jesus Christ. **When**

we take our eyes off him we experience the very thing that happened to St Peter when he got out of the boat and began to walk towards Jesus (Matthew 14: 22). Peter was fine as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus. The moment he ceased to contemplate the face of Christ he began to drown. Which will we be: the Church of Jesus Christ with our eyes on him, or a self-focused group of people in danger of going under?

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Parishes urgently needing SRE volunteers:

- Henty
- Darlington Point and Colleambally
- Berrigan and Mulwala

Blessing the animals



Sacred Heart Parish Koorungal celebrated the feast of St Francis of Assisi this year with its first Blessing of the Animals ceremony.

Ten parishioners turned up with their pet or family’s pet and gathered on the lawn after 9.30am Mass on Saturday 6th October.

“We had four dogs, a cat and a chicken”, Parish Council member John Goonan said. It wasn’t a lot, but it was a start and hopefully it will grow next year. We didn’t promote it outside of the Parish, but plan to next year.”

Top: Parishioners getting ready for the Blessing of the Animals.

Left: Fr John and Sr Rosemary checking out the ‘assembled menagerie’!

Plenary Council Deliberations



The Sacred Heart Koorungal Parish have had six small group meetings so far where a variety of stories have been shared and suggestions as to what God is asking of the Church in Australia at the present time.

Mr David Collie, Chair of the Koorungal Pastoral Parish Council has led a number of the sessions and said “Some people have come once, others a couple of times, all keen to have their say and be part of this important event in the life of the Church”.



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www.centacareswnew.org.au

CRA welcomes NSW Government’s \$127 million commitment to Royal Commission recommendations

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) welcomes the NSW Government’s commitment to strengthening and broadening measures and protections to prevent child sexual abuse in NSW. Amongst those measures is the expansion of the coverage of the current reportable conduct scheme to include religious bodies and the transfer of the reportable conduct scheme from the NSW Ombudsman to the NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian.

The Catholic Church has long advocated for the expansion of oversight under the Reportable Conduct Scheme to include religious bodies. This has also been supported by other faith-based organisations and survivor advocate groups. This has been made clear in representations to Government and also at the inaugural joint Standing

Committee, which met with the Government on 12 September 2018 at NSW Parliament House. The call for the expansion of oversight was recommended by the Royal Commission in its final report handed down in 2017.

CRA also supports the Government’s decision to transfer the reportable conduct scheme from the NSW Ombudsman to the NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian with the aim of integrating child safeguarding functions. CRA encourages the Government to consider whether further consolidation and integration of the safeguarding and oversight arrangements are required in NSW especially in relation to those arrangements focused on independently reviewing the systems for responding to vulnerable groups within the

community.

“The Reportable Conduct Scheme has been a significant factor in developing change in the Church’s response to allegations of child abuse,” said Anne Walker, National Executive

Director of CRA. “However, a properly integrated arrangement of oversight responsibility will assist organisations to focus on keeping the vulnerable safe. It will also assist in a more effective method of processing

information to respond to risks to the vulnerable,” she added.



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A Finnish immersion in education

Recently, three staff from schools within Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW) Alison Sutton and Peter Hunt from Kildare Catholic College (joint recipients of the Maureen Wilson Leadership Scholarship in 2017), and Kerry Mowett from CEDWW Office, travelled to Finland for the opportunity to be immersed in aspects of the Finnish educational system. The purpose was to gain a deeper understanding of what works well in contemporary schools, for the benefit of improving the learning communities within our own system of schools.

As we well know, Finland has been widely reported as being one of the leading educational systems in the world. This was an opportunity to visit, listen, and engage with schools and leaders of learning in Tampere, Finland. Supported by Mrs. Johanna Järvinen-Taubert (Pedagogical Director) and the team at “Learning Scoop” (www.learningscoop.fi / info@learningscoop.fi), our one week program provided an overview of the Finnish education system and role of pedagogical leadership. This tour introduced the founding principles in Finnish Education management and leadership and how it is implemented in action. The program also offered a personal view of daily life of Finnish schools.

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to gain many valuable insights within a range of schools from Preschool - Secondary within Tampere district. What was apparent was the cohesive language

of learning within all school settings. The clarity of purpose for providing high quality learning communities for all students, embedded with the values of Trust and Equity. These values underpin all areas of the Finnish Education System. They enable the key focus in schools to be for planned improvement of wellbeing, flexibility and diversity in pedagogy, greater emphasis on learning broad knowledge and trust through professionalism.

When broken down further, here are the key characteristics of the Finnish Education System:

1. Equality and equity
2. “Less is more”
3. Child-centered, focus on well-being
4. Highly educated teaching personnel,
5. High teacher autonomy
6. Trust at every level
7. No national tests
8. Co-operation instead of competition
9. Make the learning fun.

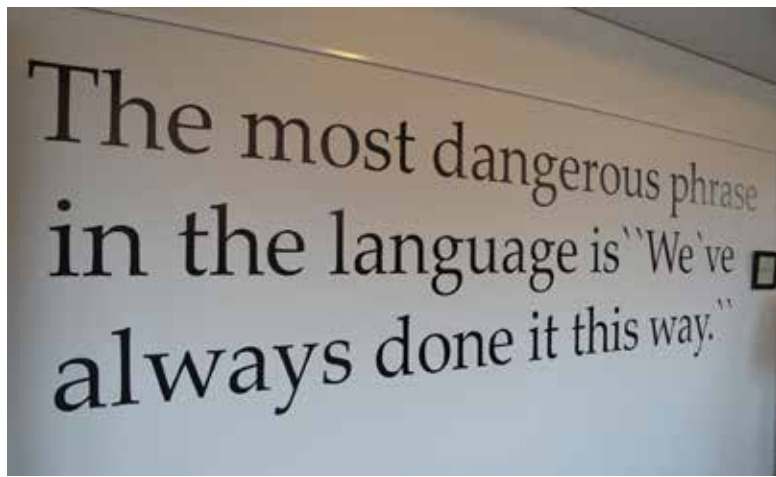
This was a wonderful opportunity to visit a system of schools which are invested in student wellbeing to the point where it drives policy. For example, there is no school transport provided in Finland. Students either walk or ride to school. This not only has proven benefits for health and wellbeing but it also reinforces the Finnish message “the best school is your local school”. This mantra is a significant driver for equitable distribution of funding and resources for all schools.

Some of our most affirming experiences throughout this week long immersion were

the parallels we could draw on between our two educational systems (Tampere, Finland and CEDWW). There are many similarities in our use of the language of learning and the relentless focus on improvement within our school learning communities. While we still have a way to go, our schools are focused on building contemporary, data informed learning communities grounded in current educational research and best pedagogical practice. Similarly, within Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga, we too aim to be equitable when serving the educational needs of all students in providing multiple learning pathways with No Dead-Ends .

There are many challenges that we will continue to face in education. Our challenge throughout this tour, which is explained in detail by Pasi Sahlberg in his book (*Finnish Lessons: What Can The World Learn From Educational Change In Finland*), was not to simply take home replicate in our schools what we have witnessed that is working for Finnish schools. But rather, acknowledge the key characteristics of the Finnish Education System, listen to the current research about contemporary learning and best practice and ensure we have our own clear vision and strategic plans for implementing practices which focus on enjoyment, engagement, excellence and equity for all learners.

The Maureen Wilson Leadership Scholarship has been established in recognition for the outstanding contribution



The Finnish Education Immersion Team on a visit to Vuores comprehensive School in Tampere, Finland.



The Finnish Education Immersion Team on a visit to Kaukajärvi comprehensive school (grades 1–10) in Tampere, Finland.

Maureen Wilson made to Education Diocese of Wagga Catholic Education in the Wagga and Kildare Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga and College for providing the at a State level. As the joint necessary support and guidance recipients of this Scholarship, for this valuable learning we are truly grateful to Catholic opportunity.

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The Spirit of The Planet Festival



Free Family Event

Dubbo Showground

30 November - 2 December 2018

Live Performances:

- Rapa Nui (Easter Island)
- Aztec (Mexico City)
- Massai (Kenya)
- Talbragar Wiradjuri Dance Group (Dubbo)
- Sarawak (Malaysia)
- Cree (Canada)
- Shona & Ndebele (Zimbabwe)
- Doonooch Dancers (Yuin Country)
- Navajo (Native American)

Activities include:

- The Awakening of The Senses
- Kids' Corner – Jumping castle, petting zoo and craft activities for all ages.
- Tribal Village – Tee-Pees and other traditional dwellings from different tribes.
 - Static and live interactive displays.
 - High energy main stage performances.
 - World Indigenous Q&A sessions.
 - An eclectic array of market stalls.
 - Food, drinks and non-stop entertainment.
- School cultural immersion experiences (this will be in the days before the festival)

The Spirit of The Planet Festival, promotes equality locally, nationally and internationally and brings us together as one world and one spirit. Unity within the community promotes trust, respect and positive relationships. Attendees will leave in a euphoric state, wanting for more.



#SHARETHESPIRITDREAM #FESTIVALBELIEVERS

The Spirit of the Planet Festival

What is The Spirit of The Planet Festival?

The Spirit of The Planet Festival (TSoTP) is a 3-day event where Indigenous people from Australia and around the world will come together to share their culture, customs and traditions first-hand. TSoTP has been inspired by “*Lo Spirito Del Pianeta*,” a similar festival that has successfully run in Milan, Italy for over 17 years.

TSoTP Festival founder and visionary, Lewis Burns, has attended the Italian festival representing Australian Aboriginal Culture on a number of occasions. After seeing the cultural emersion at “*Lo Spirito Del Pianeta*,” Lewis wanted to bring The Spirit Dream to his own homeland.

Lewis’ dream is to create here in Australia the same sense of inclusion, connectedness, unity and respect for all people, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous, that he experienced and felt when in Italy, despite often not being able to even speak the same language.

Up to 10 Indigenous Cultures from around the world will come to Dubbo from 29 November to 2 December for TSoTP Festival sharing their traditions, unique sounds, dance and movement, way of life and traditions.

TSoTP Festival allows visitors to build a greater sense of connection through cultural exchange and to cast a glance at different Indigenous cultures and traditions from across the globe, a unique



opportunity that many people may not ever get to see.

Aims of The Spirit of The Planet through the Cultural Immersion Experience:

TSoTP aims to promote and unite the vast array of cultures that exist across Australia and the world. Whilst the Festival is open to everyone TSoTP are offering a unique experience to students called the *Cultural Immersion Experience*, also named ‘Edutainment’ by Lewis. It aims to give students an unique cultural experience as education and entertainment come together. Students will be immersed in hands on experiences, music, dance, traditional performances and finding out about the similarities and differences that exist between cultures and countries and that these differences do no need to divide us – they are what makes each of us unique.

The Cultural Immersion Experience will engage students in a variety of performances, activities and interactive presentations on the ‘Main Stage’ and throughout the grounds at the ‘Tribal Village,’ ‘Awakening Of The Senses,’ and ‘Q&A’ presentations. All these activities aim to engage and develop a once in a life time opportunity and first-hand experience for students to learn about

the different Indigenous groups and cultures present at TSoTP Festival. An aim of the Festival is that all present will be fully engaged and that The Spirit of The Planet Festival will bring a sense of unity, hope, inclusion and greater understanding.

Cultural Immersion Experience:

School groups need to book for this experience as it is not open to the general public. *The Cultural Immersion* offers students the opportunity to experience cultural diversity by interacting with the different groups and participating in a number of interactive activities.

Students will have the opportunity to mix with people of different cultures from around the world and be fully immersed in the activities, performances and the many hands on displays. Indigenous groups will interact and perform alongside and with the students, they will have an opportunity to learn different languages, customs, traditions and stories. All of these once in a life time experiences will not be on offer at the weekend festival.

Please visit our website for further information. We look forward to seeing all members of the community there. Be ready to be ‘edutained!’





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One month after a 7.5 magnitude earthquake and tsunami struck the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, the Caritas international network continues to assist those whose lives were devastated by this massive natural disaster.

Up to 2.4 million people were affected when the earthquake hit the Minahassa Peninsula, which triggered a tsunami, with waves of up to 6 metres, impacting Palu, Donggala, Mapaga, Gorontalo, and Poso.

Buildings, including houses, shops, mosques, and hotels collapsed, were swept away or suffered extensive damage. Around 2096 people are known to have died, with 10, 679 people seriously injured.

Over 87,000 people were displaced, taking shelter in evacuation centres or informal camps, with many more staying with relatives or friends. Weeks after the deadly disaster, many people remain far from home.

Caritas Australia’s local partners, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Caritas Indonesia (Karina) have already distributed essential food, lifesaving water and non-food items to 6,000 households, as well as 9,900 tarpaulins and 2,000 kits of household and hygiene supplies to affected families.

Fifty-five year old grandmother, Umi and her family are among those who haven’t yet returned to their

Caritas network ongoing response to Sulawesi tsunami and earthquake

village.

Her life changed forever, when her entire neighbourhood was flattened by a mudflow caused by the earthquake.

“When the earthquake struck, I panicked and prayed,” Umi says. “I grabbed my grandson and granddaughter. We saw the land, the ground, splitting and cracking, with mud and water coming out of the ground. We slept under the sky that night. It was dark, as the electricity was down. But, we’re thankful we’re safe,” she says.

“I’m too scared to see my village. I have been living under the tents with my daughter and grandkids,” Umi says.

Caritas’ local partners have identified the rehabilitation and clean-up of wells as key priorities to improve access to water for drinking and washing, to assist people in returning home.

“I don’t know what fate will bring us, I don’t know how long we will stay here under the tent, but we’re together with other neighbours here. Thank you for helping us.”

Caritas Australia, is also responding to the disaster, in partnership with CAN DO (Church Agencies Network – Disaster Operations), a consortium of eight church agencies, through the Australian Humanitarian



Umi, 55, whose neighbourhood was flattened by a mudflow following the earthquake receives a household kit.

Partnership. Caritas is a partner of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Agreement between DFAT and six of Australia’s leading International NGOs, together they are responding

rapidly to global disasters and to build resilience to future crises.

Australians who wish to support the people

of the Sulawesi at this time can do so by donating to the Caritas website www.caritas.org.au

Would you like to prepare well for Christmas this year?

Join us for a one-day Silent Advent Retreat!

**Saturday, 24 November 2018
9:30 am - 3:30 pm**

Holy Trinity Parish, West Wagga Wagga
Spiritual Director: Fr Steven Ledinich
Morning tea provided. BYO lunch.

All welcome!

Agenda:

- 9:30am - Mass (1st Talk- Homily)
- 10:15am - Morning Tea
- 10:45am - 2nd Talk
- 11:15am Silent Prayer (Sacrament of Reconciliation available)
- 11:30am - Rosary

- 12:00pm - Angelus
- 12:15pm - Lunch (BYO)
- 1:15pm - 3rd Talk
- 1:45pm - Silent Prayer
- 2:15pm - Holy Hour
- 3:00pm - Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- 3:15pm - Benediction

The Daily Advertiser

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"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another."



Wagga Serra Club: Love and action

by Steven Vella

President, Wagga Serra Club

On the first Friday in November, Serrans and friends of the Vianney College Seminary attended a Mass for Holy Souls at the seminary.

After the Mass, and throughout the following night, some spent an hour with the Blessed Sacrament during an all-night Adoration for vocations.

Paraphrasing an expression, if you want to get some idea of what a person loves, look where they spend their time.

Reflecting on my own example, amongst other things, my time is spent between work, study, church and stamps, on my own or with family, friends, and others. Each activity having different priorities and duration.

As for others, they might also do some of these activities, but also many that I don't.

Whether doing more, less or the same, activities like these can help us, in varying degrees, participate in daily life as well as journey to heaven.

When driving to a holiday destination having instructions, a signpost or GPS, might be handy.

Consider how Jesus chose the priesthood as a means of ministering to His Church on Earth.

Jesus who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered, died, rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven because of His love for us; and, conversely, the priesthood being, in some ways, a sign of this good news and all that comes with it.

On our spiritual journey to follow Christ, some might consider it handy to have priests guiding us on the Way, providing alternative paths to the many ways that the world would otherwise want us to travel.

As part of their formation, seminarians gain insight that could help us, the people of God, balance our physical and spiritual realities.

So, it is natural that some in the church spend their time supporting the work of the seminary and the seminarians studying there.

Although different Serra Clubs achieve



the Serra charism in different ways the activities of members in the Wagga Serra Club are closely tied to the Vianney College Seminary.

Their activities include praying for vocations, fundraising, catering for different events and welcoming seminarians within our community.

These activities reflect the love of members of the Wagga Serra Club.

If you would like to find out more about the Wagga Serra Club please contact Letitia Hackett, VP Membership on 0439 868 461 or Find Us on <https://www.facebook.com/waggaserra>.

Also, thank you to those who purchased



Signposts can help us get to our destination (CC BY 2.0 paulwalter)



Members of Wagga Serra, Pat Connell and Barbara Parnell, sharing smiles at a past academic end-of-year function.

tickets in our Fundraising Raffle. The winning tickets will be drawn at the reception after the academic end-of-year Mass on 22 November.

Please note: Wagga Serra Club meetings will not be held in December or January. Members have this opportunity to share

time with family and friends over the festive season. Monthly meetings resume February.

On behalf of the Serrans of Wagga Wagga, we wish you and your families many blessings over the Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.



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Baby Jesus nativity figurine.

The Christmas checklist you need this year

by **Stina Constantine**
Virtue Ministry Founder
and Managing Director

Christmas is just the turn of a calendar away. Now that our hearts are open to welcoming Christ anew, and the liturgical season of Advent spurs us on to Bethlehem we need, inevitably, to the more practical requirements of the Christmas season.

Keeping on top of all the demands of the ‘silly season’ can be headache inducing, but we’ve put together a checklist for you, a plan of attack to help you approach Christmas with less stress and more time to focus on what Christmas is really about.



Christmas Check List
Audit your budget now. Are you on track?

Audit your gifts list. Do they all need gifts? Can it be simplified or can you give something meaningful that isn’t necessarily expensive? Never underestimate the power of a prayerful gift like a Mass offering or a spiritual bouquet, especially for the person who ‘has everything’.

Make sure you’ve locked in your leave from work or study, and plan how you will finish up what you need to. Nobody likes the Christmas spirit ruined by someone writing an essay or finishing a work project.

Check bookings, accommodation, travel plans

so it’s out of the way - include enough suit cases for the family. You don’t want to run down to Kmart the day before you have to travel because your suitcase is torn or damaged.

Label any dishes you may take with you.

If you mail cards or write them, now is the time to finish them up. Have them ready to go. It also avoids the last minute ink smudge dilemma, and that embarrassing hand writing you get from writing your 40th card with muscle cramps in your hands. This is not an exam. Pace yourself.

Do you have all the decorations you need? Avoid buying new, now is when they’re most expensive. Instead, buy and stock after Christmas for the following year.

Any online purchases to make should be made ahead of time. Online retailers are under the pump during December so there can be delays in sending parcels out. Get in early.

Wrap the gifts as you go so that you’re not doing it all in one hit when you should be packing the car and hitting the road, or cleaning the house ready for guests.



Deep clean that house, declutter and get the tribe to pitch in. You don’t have to do this all at once, small steps are just as effective and more manageable when fitting into a tight schedule.

Pull out or make a visual countdown the entire household can see. Advent Calendars are a great way to do this, and they also keep the focus on Jesus’ birth.

Put into your calendar local Christmas events, so you don’t miss them, and set reminders if you’re likely to forget.

Set up an advent wreath or candle. Take moments as a family or with loved ones to pray together.

Take stock of all the people in your life, and the impact they make on you. Be thankful for each and everyone of them.

For distant family or loved ones you won’t be seeing at Christmas. Call them before

Christmas and ask them about how their preparation is going so that when you call again at Christmas, you can talk about something more meaningful than all the stresses that occurred before Christmas day.

Clear your mind for Christmas. Put that phone down more and unplug more.

Slow down. Notice the little things, and smile.

Give yourself permission, and don’t expect perfection. Take care of the gift of your mind, body and soul.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly. As you get ready to share the love, take time to pray, so that you may receive His love to the full, and let that overflow into the lives of your loved ones.

If we missed something, let us know via our Socials or email contact@virtueministry.org.au




NOVEMBER VIRTUE CHALLENGE:
Practice gratitude

GOALS
WRITE DOWN:
3 practical and realistic ways in which you can grow in this virtue
as well as
3 obstacles you can foresee to growing in this virtue

EVALUATE:
Check your progress every night and see how you went and where you can improve.


SHARE:
Your progress with an accountability partner or with us on our Facebook page - we’re doing this challenge too!

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Is the world overpopulated?
Are there alternatives to IVF?

PROGRAM

9:15am Mass Holy Spirit Church
10am Tea & Coffee Holy Spirit Hall
10:30am First Session
12:30pm **BYO Shared Lunch**
1pm Second Session
3pm Finish

PLUS Family Bush Dance
From 7pm - gold coin donation

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Sat 17 November
10:30am to 3pm

Holy Spirit Hall, Mutsch St, Lavington

Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance

With the OMG Bush Band

Date: 17 November 2018, 7 pm

Where: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Mutsch Street, Lavington

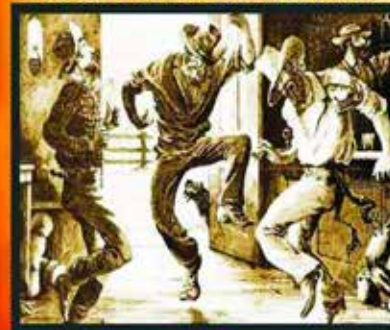
What: Bush-dancing, games, prizes, etc.

BYO: Supper, drinks; coffee/tea provided.

Entry: \$10 per person, or \$25 per family.

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Tickets available at the door.



**Proceeds go to Home
Schoolers' Camp**

(National Association of Catholic Families)



In 1979 Fr Paul Hart and teams from Wagga Wagga Catholic Diocese took Cursillo to our Anglican brethren in Canberra-Goulburn.

This was at the request from the then Anglican Archbishop of Canberra Goulburn to our Bishop Carroll who passed it onto Fr Paul, the then Spiritual Advisor for our Wagga Cursillo Movement.

Basically the two Cursillo Movements went their own and separate ways for many years after this.

And now fast forward to October 4 -7, 2018.

The team gathered in the hall adjacent to the lovely small church of St Peters early afternoon to get things ready and around 4pm we celebrated a Eucharist with Rev Rob Donald and Fr Paul Hart.

The presence of Jesus was real and the graciousness and interaction of our Spiritual Advisors was brilliant.

As was the start of a feeling of Christian camaraderie I had not previously experienced!

Candidates arrived in due

course and we all went to the Royal Hotel for rooms and keys. And pre-dinner drinks in the courtyard of the pub!

Then to the Hall for dinner followed later by visit to the Chapel. After a time it was back to the hall for supper and the *Way of the Cross* and *Prodigal Son* reflection.

So there we have it...hall/dining room, Church as Chapel and pub for not nearly enough sleep!!

The local ladies did all the cooking and I think we were overfed (some of us, anyway!) with good home cooked food.

Bern Milne's friendly hospitality and the facility provided in the Royal Hotel, Ganmain, was highly appreciated.

We had the usual 5 meditations and the 15 talks with a couple more meditations which were Anglican and most appropriate.

We had Eucharist on Friday and Saturday and Mass on Sunday morning with Fr Mick, the Anglican priest from Narrandera.

We had a short liturgy on Sunday afternoon with commitment cards and crosses.

We 21 blokes increased the normal small attendance and

our singing was perhaps best described as "with gusto".

We had a healing ceremony on Saturday with anointing by both priests and a complete laying of hands and prayers over one of our team struggling with the uncertainties of cancer.

We had a Reconciliation on Sunday afternoon which included a second rite with both Rev Rob abd Fr Paul and also Pastor Connie (Anglican Spiritual Advisor for Canberra Goulburn) and how nice it was to have a female priest!!

The Clausura on Sunday afternoon was huge and as I had to leave early I did so this time with a sadness that this weekend was over.

In my short address as President (not a hat I wore during the weekend) I said it was my privilege to have been part of this weekend.

Our Lay Director was Bert

Adams and the Proctor (Cha in our language) was Peter Jansen.

Both were exhausted at end of the weekend and we were fortunate to have them doing that which they did.

Our Spiritual Advisors were Rev Rob Donald and Fr Paul Hart. Both are retired clergy with Rob from Cootamundra and Paul from Wagga Wagga.

Our musician (and a candidate) was Laurie Graham (Uniting Church).

In total we were 21 Christians pilgrims with the team comprising 6 Anglicans and 7 Catholics.

Our candidates were 2 Anglicans, 2 Uniting Church and 4 Catholics.

Is this the way of the future for Anglican and Catholic Cursillos? I hope so but the work to be done is daunting. Still, the job in front of us is never as great as the power behind us!!

And...from Mother Teresa: "It is not given to us all to do great things....but we should do small things with Great Love."

From little things, big things grow!!

De Colores
George Simon



Back Row: Bill Werner, Bob Godde, Matthew Sayers, Chris Thomas, Rob Donald, Elvio Suine
Third Row: Peter Barker, Bruce James, Lex Burgess, George Simon, Louis Kelly
Second Row: Cor Jongeneel, Max Oldfield, Ross Smith, Kevin Amery
Front Row: Fr Paul Hart, Max Eames, Tony Pastro, Laurie Graham, Bert Adams (Leader), Peter Jansen

Respect Week 2018: Building a better community

Respect Week for 2018 will be held from 17th November through to 24th November. On Wednesday 21st November every one in the community is encouraged to wear yellow or purple (or even both) to raise awareness to this very worthy cause. Respect Week 2018 kicks off with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Wagga on Saturday 17th November to help raise much needed funds.

In 1997 local Wagga citizen, Ronda Lampe had been concerned about people's lack of respect for other people and other people's property. She formulated a concept that she felt could be looked at by the local community to promote and educate the Respect Message. Firstly an approach was made

to our Member of Parliament in early February 1997 and as a result of this discussion she then called a meeting on 8th April 1997. The meeting included a number of people who are leaders in the community or have areas of influence on people's lives.

The various invites included leaders from within the Government, Community, Defence Forces, Schools etc. Ideas and concepts for the respect campaign were presented and all showed great interest and enthusiasm for a Campaign of this nature. The concept is to bring about a greater level of respect for people and property in our community, which in turn would have wide ranging benefits for everyone.

Respect Awareness is hoping

"STOP AND THINK" will become synonymous with RESPECT. Following on the message was adapted to "STOP ... THINK ... RESPECT" and in 2006 this message was amplified by the addition of the words "... BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS". It is all very well to say each family teaches its own children to do the right thing but unfortunately in reality that isn't always the case therefore it has been necessary to use various ways of getting this message through to the majority of young children in the hope that some of these ideals and values will carry through as they become adults.

While some people may say the two elements of the idea sound very naïve, we must encourage families and communities to

*"Be devoted to one another in love.
Honour one another above yourselves."*
Romans 12:10

make some headway in educating the way people think and act. We will be paying dearly for inaction as Governments and Councils are going to be spending more money repairing the end result of vandalism. The community will continue to see alarming rises in the number of assaults, thefts, ram-raiding, graffiti, unsportsmanlike behaviour, bullying, disrespect in the workplace, the home, the school, etc.

While it is not going to fix everything, over time Respect Awareness believes it could re-educate people's thinking and

if presented in the right way could have quite a big impact on communities and individuals. Raising public awareness and keeping this message to the forefront hopefully will make it harder for other people to do the 'wrong thing'.

Respect is mentioned throughout the Bible and it doesn't cost anything but if everyone would treat others as they want to be treated what a wonderful difference it could make to all of society.

So let's be proactive and show RESPECT for others because everyone counts.

Building a better community
RESPECT WEEK 2018
17th - 24th November
Stop...Think... Respect
...because everyone counts.

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Nano Nagle: Foundress of the Presentation Sisters

There is a tide in the affairs of men.
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.¹

by Patrick Donohue
Mount Erin Heritage Centre

Nano Nagle, Foundress of the Presentation Sisters, witnessed a ripple in the sea of her life from the luxury

of her carriage window one early morning on her way home from a ball in Regency Paris. This ripple developed into a wave that swept her back to Cork, Ireland, and from there became a flood that spread her legacy of educating and empowering the poor, destitute and lowly across the globe.

In her life, and in her legacy, the shallows and miseries of many were cast asunder, and fortune in the form of knowledge and health was made their own.

Honorina (Nano) Nagle was born on the 9th of April, 1718 to Ann (nee Mathew), and Garret Nagle, at the family's estate of

Ballygriffin in County Cork, Ireland. Her parents, due the prevailing religious strictures, had wed on the Continent, in Flanders. Nano was the granddaughter of David Nagle who had held the domains of Ballygriffin and Carrigoon, and had served as a Member of Parliament for Mallow during the reign of James II – the openly Catholic King of England.

Nano's life was irrevocably shaped by the political and religious maelstrom that had engulfed the kingdom under James II, who by his open faith earned the fateful ire of the English aristocracy. However, by that same faith he had given hope to not just Catholics, but all oppressed religious minorities, evinced in his 'Declaration of Indulgence' of 1687, which granted religious freedom to all denominations, and which saw Scottish Presbyterians fight along side of Irish Catholics at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 – James' doomed attempt to regain the throne two years after he had been deposed by his daughter and son-in-law, Mary and her husband William of Orange and subsequently William the III of England. James was given succour at the Court of his cousin, Louis XIV of France.

Though his son, James III the "Old Pretender" shifted his court in exile from Paris to Rome, a pattern had been set whereby those that could escape the tyranny of Hanoverian rule, which outlawed all practice and instruction in any faith other than the Established Anglican Church, did so.

Nano was thus sent to Paris to finish her

education. On returning from a ball one morning, she glimpsed through her carriage window a group of poor people waiting patiently outside of a church for Mass. This was her Damascene moment, her Epiphany.

Her injunction to the women that would join her in her fledgling order was:

"Instruct poor children, and when not teaching, minister to the sick, the poor, the down trodden, the elderly in their homes, or where-ever"

Her subsequent work in teaching the children of the poor in Cork, and ministering to their families' temporal needs after dark – lit by a lantern that exemplified the light she and her kith brought to a world of literal and metaphorical darkness – would have seen her arrested and executed had she been discovered. It was a secret that she had initially kept even from her family. But the need was great, and very soon she was running seven underground schools, with a couple of hundred students in attendance.

Her sedition, for that is what it was, found an echo in Thomas

Jefferson's famous maxim:

"And never – never forget, that Rebellion to Tyrants is Obedience to God".

Her obedience was absolute, and inspired many women to follow in her wake, then, and since, with their mission being carried across the globe, including to a country and to a town that didn't exist when she died in 1784. The light of her lantern shines down through the centuries, and her Mission continues. The Presentation schools that were founded from the Convent here in Wagga have been host to a replica of Nano's lantern, which has been wending its way betwixt them since July, and is to find a permanent home in the Mount Erin Heritage Centre in a ceremony to be held at Kildare Catholic College in November.

References:

1 Shakespeare, W. (1599). Julius Caesar Act 4, Scene 3, 218-224.

2 Blenderman, R. M. (nd). Retrieved 25.10.2018 from: <http://nagle.org/new/g042.html#I042>

3 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_II_of_England and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Boyne

4 Presentation Sisters (2016). Retrieved 25.10.2018: Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0oBLIYvDLkU>



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What does Humanae Vitae mean?

by Caronne Vella

If you had asked me this question 20 years ago, I probably would have imagined the “Brides of Christ” TV series and answered something like “Wasn’t it a Church document that condemned the use of contraception?” While this is true, I am so glad that I took the time a few years later to read the document and see what Pope Paul VI had to say! What a rich document. It’s easy to read – only 31 sections – the language is not difficult. Put simply, it is about human life and love. It gives married couples instruction on how to behave with dignity and respect. Yes, it says we must be open to the possibility of conception and not put anything in God’s way when it comes to the amazing, awesome, physical act of love that is inimitably designed to take place within marriage. As a young person, I had little idea of the meaning of love or sex. It took me until I was 31 years old to ask the question; “What’s the big deal about sex before marriage?” Thankfully Cardinal Pell (he was Archbishop of Melbourne at the time) did not laugh and fob me off, while we travelled around the Holy Land before World Youth Day in Rome - but took the time to explain gently and wisely that separating sex, marriage, children and God make for a slippery slope. I cannot remember his exact words, but I do remember thinking; “Well, that makes perfect sense” when he had finished explaining. I was glad that I had asked my ‘naïve’ question and only regretted not having found out earlier.

Observing today the breakdown of marriage and all the ramifications for children, I cannot help thinking that if everyone read Humanae Vitae and embraced its wisdom, what a different world we might have. Instead of our “Culture of Death and Self-Centredness”, we could have a different society where we hold marriage up as a sacrament and respect and value human life – welcoming babies as gifts from God – protecting and loving human beings from conception through to natural death. We would recognise that women carry babies not bits of tissue; that there are ways to manage our fertility that don’t

damage our bodies using our knowledge of a woman’s awe-inspiring reproductive cycle. We’d appreciate God’s loving plan for us and respond with trust and generosity!

Here’s what Richard M Doerflinger OSV, a former associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, from Washington, has to say:

“When the birth control pill was developed in the 1960s, many people thought it would bring great benefits. Contraception would free women from fear of pregnancy, allowing men and women to love each other fully and have children only when ready. Abortion, child abuse and out-of-wedlock births would be reduced or eliminated.

When Blessed Pope Paul VI issued his encyclical Humanae Vitae in 1968, he saw a different future. He thought readily available contraception would weaken, not strengthen, fidelity in marriage. He feared it would liberate not authentic love but rather a selfish desire allowing men to treat women as sex objects. Governments would promote birth control, intervening in what should be a private decision for couples. Many Catholics were sceptical of these predictions and disappointed in the encyclical.

After 50 years, we can take a new look. The problems contraception was thought to solve are worse. We see more infidelity, divorce and sexual harassment and abuse of

women. Governments have vast programs for population control, not all of them voluntary.”

He goes on: “Every other system of the body — breathing, circulation, digestion and so on — is designed for our own survival and development. The sexual aspect of our bodies — which even Planned Parenthood calls “the reproductive system” — is different. It is for going out of ourselves, for uniting with another person and ensuring the survival and development of someone else who will need our unconditional love to thrive.

And because we like to think of ourselves first, it is the only bodily system that modern medicine turns against. We are sold drugs, devices and surgeries — even those with bad effects on our overall health — to make this one healthy system stop working.

Our Catholic faith adds its own insight. Our bodies are “temple[s] of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 6:19), as are the bodies of any children we conceive. When a man and a woman give themselves to each other in committed love, their bond is a sacrament, a symbol of Christ’s union with his Church. And when their love conceives a child, they cooperate with God to create a human person, body and soul, with his or her own innate dignity and eternal destiny. This power to be “co-creators” with God deserves our respect.

Paul VI sought to defend these two gifts from God, the “unitive”



and “procreative” meanings of sexuality. Marital love is about bonding with each other forever and being open to a child who may result from that union. To quote Pope St. John Paul II, they are both ways in which “life attains its fullness in the sincere gift of self” (Evangelium Vitae, No. 86).

These two meanings imply and support each other. Marital commitment must be permanent, so children can be sure of both parents’ love and support throughout childhood. And openness to having a child with each other makes married love deeper and richer.

The love both parents have

for a child arising from their love for each other is unique. In the Middle Ages, theologian Richard of St. Victor compared it to the love among the persons of the Holy Trinity, coining a new word for it: condilectio, or co-loving.

Therefore, when we “free” sexual love from openness to life, we do not set free the love between man and woman — we make it a less complete gift of self. What is set free from fully authentic love is a more selfish desire, with the consequences we have seen over half a century.

It was to preserve the fullness of marital love that Paul VI

continued on page 21...



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Australian voices heard at Vatican Youth Synod

An apology for past failings and calls for a renewed Church that listens and offers the guidance young people seek were common themes from the Australian voices heard at the Synod in Rome.

More than 250 bishops from around the world joined Pope Francis, religious sisters and brothers, clergy lay youth representatives for the Vatican’s 2018 Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment from October 3.

Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, personally selected by Pope Francis to attend, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference delegates Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP of Sydney and Melbourne Auxiliary Bishop Mark Edwards, and youth auditor Sebastian Duhau, from Parramatta, all offered insightful interventions about issues of importance to young people and the future Church.

Archbishop Comensoli urged action to rediscover a young, outward looking church.

“It is time to leave behind a Church that only sits around waiting. Our task is to rediscover a young Church that goes out; not to re-create a Church for the young to come to,” he said.

“My dear young friends: you live in a world that is often difficult for us older generations to comprehend, and sometimes you venture down paths that leave us concerned for you.

“Yet you are also seekers of a Gospel horizon within which to locate your lives. You hope for faithful witnesses in whom you can place your trust. You seek true guides who will welcome your abundant energies and accompany you on the journey.

“Friends, you yearn for this because you are horizon hunters!

You are seekers of the fire of a new Pentecost, and pursuers of a young Church willing to start afresh from Christ. May we discover this horizon together.”

Archbishop Fisher apologised to young people for the ways the Church had failed them, but urged them to not give up on Jesus.

“For the shameful deeds of some priests, religious and lay people, perpetrated upon you or other young people just like you, and the terrible damage that has done; and for the failure of too many bishops and others to respond appropriately when abuse was identified, and to do all in their power to keep you safe and for the damage thus done to the Church’s credibility and to your trust: I apologise,” he said.

“For the times Catholic families, parishes and schools have failed to introduce you to the person of Jesus Christ, his saving word, and his plan for your life; and for the times we’ve seemed to you unwelcoming, distant or harsh, or have not demonstrated the sheer joy of being Christians; and for the times when you were searching for your sexual, ethnic or spiritual identity, and needed a moral compass, but found Church people unsympathetic or ambiguous: I apologise.

“For poor preaching, catechesis or spiritual direction that fails to convert, and for lack of imagination or enthusiasm for that new evangelisation to which the recent popes have called us; and for our failures to demonstrate God’s mercy, as Pope Francis has insisted we must, and to involve you in campaigns for justice and in works of mercy; and for families, dioceses and religious orders that, with a contraceptive

mentality, have given up on generating new vocations and so have not nurtured yours: I apologise.

“But I say to young people also: never give up on Jesus because of our failures. Never give up on the Church that you can help make more faithful. Never give up on the world that, with Christ and the Church’s help, you can make a better place.”

Bishop Edwards called the tense times in which we live an opportunity for fertile intergenerational encounters – a time to work out how to be missionary and pass on God’s message.

“This epoch, God’s gift to us, has its tension and makes compromises,” he said.

“Being Church, then, is to accompany the young in this new place and to lead them to and to support them to places where they can encounter Jesus. When they meet Jesus, he will change their hearts. And this will enable them to discover appropriate ways to live fruitfully and really humanly and as effective Church in the tensions of this new age.

“We stand at the edge of a new era. We knew how to be Church in the past, how to pass on the faith and how to be effective missionaries. At least some of what we did isn’t effective any more. How we are to be Church, how we are to be missionary and pass on the Good News in the new era, is not clear to us. We don’t know how to enter in.

“Young people are closer to being natives in this new era than we are. They more instinctively grasp the lay of this land with its values of equality, inclusion, respect, authenticity and the integration of multiple aspects of life such as body and soul.



Sebastian Duhau from Lasallian Mission Services.

“My suggestion is that fertile intergenerational encounter, in my country at least, might involve us saying to our young people: ‘You show us the lay of this land, the way to the place where you dwell, and we will show you the way to God’.”

Mr Duhau was one of 20 young people selected from 40 countries to represent youth and advise Pope Francis at the Synod.

Mr Duhau, who is 22 and a retreat and programs coordinator for Lasallian Mission Services, reflected on his own experience of the Church and how the Church needed to learn to listen to the world and the voices of young people who had much to offer.

“I was led and mentored by a young person, who had been empowered to do so by my grandfather. In this space, I was encouraged not only to learn, but to help lead the congregation through my music, and to lead other young musicians when I was capable,” he said.

“The Church must empower young people, giving them the opportunity and tools to lead at all levels. We young people bring with us a visible sense of joy, hope and enthusiasm, and it

is these things that the Church currently needs. The Church must open its doors and become a Church that is led not only by the ordained, but by all of us, together and alongside one another.

“I say these things today as a reflection of my own experiences of the Church. I have been fortunate to experience a Church that has listened to me, where I have been accompanied and led by many people, religious and lay alike, and where I have been given countless opportunities to lead as a young person myself.

“This experience of the Church is one that should be shared by all young people, but it is often the exception, rather than the norm.

“I stand here today asking you to see me as an example of what can be done when the Church enters into authentic relationship with young people, accompanies them through their lives, learns from them, allows them to use their God-given potential, and invites them to encounter and enter into personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”


The Synod of Bishops ran until October 28.



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St Vincent de Paul Society *good works* Vinnies Christmas Appeal



Meet Sharon and Ollie

Young mother Sharon has faced many challenges throughout her life, but she is determined to provide a better future for her son, Ollie.

Through no fault of her own, basics like holding down a job or finding long term accommodation left Sharon on the brink of collapse. She eventually turned to Vinnies for help. Volunteer Maria arrived the next day.

Maria helped Sharon and Ollie find a stable home, and ensured that young Ollie had everything he needed for school. But more than that, Maria provided the emotional support that Sharon and Ollie so desperately needed.

Your donation today to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal will help more wishes, just like Ollie's, come true.

This Christmas your donation can make wishes come true.
Please make a donation today.

For many people, Christmas is a joyful time of year. However, the sad reality is that 13.3% of Australians are living in poverty. Of these, 731,000 are children who may not get their Christmas wish. But your support can make a difference.



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Strength and support

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A place to rest and recoup

Your donation enables us to help people like Jenny and her family find a safe place to sleep when they have nowhere else to go.

Dear Santa,
I have been a very good boy. I helped mum pack and ~~unpack~~ unpack everytime. Even when she is sad.
All i want this Christmas is to stop moving house so mum can be happy again. I miss my friends to.
Merry christmas
Oliver
I'm sending you a photo so you can find me this year.



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St Joseph's Primary at Lockhart does it again!



Students showing their support at their stalls on the day.

Each year the students at St Joseph's Lockhart organise their Catholic Mission Fair during October. Each year they make an extraordinary amount of money and this year is no different.

The 77 students at the school raised an amazing \$1728.75. That's an average of \$22.45 per student! And all between the hours of 11am and 2pm on one day!

John Goonan, Wagga Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission said "This school never ceases to amaze. They raise more per head than many schools two, even three times their enrolment."

Debbie Heater, the Principal of St Joseph's, said that the children look forward to this day every year. "They do all the planning and organising themselves, with some help

of their parents. It is a real fun day – face painting, finger nail painting, 'toss the gumboot', guess the number of lollies, just to name a few activities. Every child is involved."

"It's more than that," Debbie continued. "It's a community building day. Parents, grandparents, parishioners – they all come along to support the children's efforts."

A café was set up to sell

morning tea and lunch and made over \$450. It sold cupcakes, scones, quiche, salad, sausage roll and many other delicacies.

John Goonan thanked all the children at the end of the day and thanked them for the wonderful contribution their fate made toward the purchase of school bus for the students of St John's School, Hakha (Myanmar).



John Goonan thanking the students for their amazing effort.

Monthly Funny



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continued from page 18...

taught we should never directly intervene in our acts of marital love to suppress that procreative meaning.

The answer lies in an approach known as fertility awareness or Natural Family Planning (NFP). It is based on the fact that a woman is only fertile for a few days in each reproductive cycle — NFP consists of learning how to read the signs indicating this time. The couple can choose to have sexual relations at all other times if they want to delay having a child. Married couples with fertility problems can have relations during the fertile time to increase their chance of conceiving. This approach works with a woman's natural cycles rather than against them.

Decades ago this approach relied on estimating a 28-day reproductive cycle and was called the "rhythm method." It did not work very well for women with irregular cycles. Modern methods are much improved, relying on the signs of fertility as they arise here and now.

Some Catholics ask whether there is a moral difference between contraception and NFP. But our moral life has many important distinctions that may not be obvious at first. We should not lie but may be silent if telling the whole truth about someone is hurtful. We must never attack human life but may sometimes respect life's natural limit by discontinuing life support measures.

For couples with a lived experience of NFP, the difference is not an abstraction. Women become more attuned to the natural state of their bodies, and husband and wife must communicate more fully in this cooperative approach — neither can say to the other that family planning is "your problem." Some health-conscious couples embrace NFP to be free from the adverse effects of contraceptive drugs and devices, respecting the "human ecology" of their bodies.

The time of abstinence from sexual relations can be a difficult challenge. It demands patience and a willingness to learn how to show love in nonsexual ways. Couples educate themselves in the difference between love and selfish desire. This time also has its reward when they are able to reunite with each other completely. Not many NFP couples complain that over time the passion has left their marriage.

The issue of abortion

Access to contraception has not reduced abortions. Instead, sexual activity outside marriage

has increased and led to more unintended pregnancies and abortions. The U.S. Supreme Court has even said it must maintain a "right" to abortion because so many Americans rely on abortion "in the event that contraception should fail."

As Pope St. John Paul II has asked: Once we decide that the life that may have resulted from our actions is "an enemy to be avoided at all costs" (Evangelium Vitae, No. 13), are we not more ready to attack that life if contraception fails? And unintended pregnancies that occur while using contraception more often end in abortion.

Some drugs and devices considered contraceptive raise this problem more directly by sometimes acting not to prevent the meeting of sperm and egg but to interfere with the survival of a new life already conceived.

Contraception and abortion are different, and the latter is far graver. But in deciding about family planning, we should also recognize the potential link between them.

Are we left alone to deal with this issue?

Paul VI saw that couples need more than clear teaching. They need to accept the unconditional love of God, who wants only what helps us flourish in love for each other and our families. He will answer prayers for his grace and guidance. For those who falter, God's mercy is boundless. He always calls us back to each other and to him.

As Pope Francis has said, the Church is a "field hospital" for souls. It sponsors marriage preparation as well as instruction and counselling in Natural Family Planning. It offers God's mercy and encouragement through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and has a special program called Project Rachel for those involved in abortion. No problem, difficulty or sin is beyond the reach of God's love and grace.

Here, as in many areas, a Catholic way of life is countercultural, a "sign of contradiction." It does this not to be contrary but, rather, to show a better path that preserves love for each other and for God as the centre of our lives. **On this path we will never walk alone, and we will teach our families and other couples about the true meaning of love."**

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Catholicism 101:

What are the Eight Beatitudes?

by Scott P. Richert

Beatitude is a word that means “supreme blessedness.” The Church tells us, for instance, that the saints in Heaven live in a state of perpetual beatitude. Most of the time, however, when people use the word they are referring to the Eight Beatitudes, which were delivered by Jesus Christ to His disciples during His Sermon on the Mount.

What Are the Eight Beatitudes?

The Eight Beatitudes form the core of the Christian life. As Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., writes in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, they are the “promises of happiness made by Christ to those who faithfully accept his teaching and follow his divine example.” While, as mentioned, we refer to those in Heaven as in a state of beatitude, the happiness promised in the Eight Beatitudes is not something to be found in the future, in our next life, but right here and now by those who live their lives in accordance with

the will of Christ.

Where Are the Beatitudes Found in the Bible?

There are two versions of the Beatitudes, one from the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 5:3-12) and one from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 6:20-24). In Matthew, the Eight Beatitudes were delivered by Christ during the Sermon on the Mount; in Luke, a shorter version is delivered in the lesser-known Sermon on the Plain. The text of the Beatitudes given here is from Saint Matthew, the version most commonly quoted and from which we derive the traditional count of Eight Beatitudes. (The final verse, “Blessed are ye . . . ,” is not counted as one of the Eight Beatitudes.)

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.
- Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.



The Sermon on the Mount, from The Life of Our Lord, published by Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (London c.1880). Culture Club/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill. | for they shall be called children of God. | you, and speak all that is evil against you, untruly, for my sake: Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven. |
| Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. | Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. | |
| Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God. | Blessed are ye when they shall revile you, and persecute | |
| Blessed are the peacemakers: | | |

Source: Douay-Rheims 1899 American Edition of the Bible (in the public domain)

Supporting Aboriginal Education



PHOTO: Mary Atkinson; Aboriginal School and Community Worker Co-Ordinator, Prue Horan; Assistant Director and Kerry Mowett; School Service Head of Team presented the CEDWW Award to John Rudder at the 2018 Wagga Wagga Annual NAIDOC Ball and Awards Ceremony.

A new direction in supporting Aboriginal Education in our diocesan schools has been a 2018 priority of Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga (CEDWW) which has resulted in Aboriginal School and Community Workers (ASCW) being engaged to support teachers, students and families in every school community.

This new initiative requires the ASCW to support and build stronger relationships with Aboriginal students and their families, engage and connect with the local Elders and Aboriginal Community Organisation and be a support to classroom teachers for the teaching of the Australian Curriculum Priority of

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures. Our community profile was further enhanced when CEDWW supported the local NAIDOC celebrations and sponsored a Community Appreciation Award. The winner of this Award was nominated for their decades of work alongside prevalent Aboriginal Elder Uncle Stan Grant, in reclaiming the Wiradjuri Language. Using what they learnt in anthropology studies, the award winner applied his expertise to begin to reconstruct the Wiradjuri language, requiring intensive training and countless hours with the local Elders and knowledge holders. Congratulations to Dr John Rudder.

St Anne's Primary School succeed in the Wangaratta Scrimmage

On Saturday 20th October, two teams from St Anne's North Albury travelled to Galen Catholic College to participate in the Wangaratta Scrimmage. They were two of eleven teams and the only primary school students competing.

Team Vex and Team Robo competed in 28 qualifying rounds. Both teams competed well enough to earn places in the finals. During the lunch break James and Hamarni represented their teams in the Driving Skills component of the competition.

At the end of the day the St Anne's teams were awarded three of the six trophies on offer.

Team Vex (2640V Amalia, Hamarni, Grace and Patrick) won the Team Work trophy for being the most cooperative

team to work in alliance with and they also received the trophy for the Judges Award due to their skills and qualities that emulate the philosophy and ethos of the VEX Competition.

Team Robo (2640M James, Will, Annabel, Gabe and Aleria) were awarded the trophy for Excellence. This award is the highest honour in this international robotics competition! It is awarded to the team that demonstrates skill and aptitude in all facets of the competition.

With the results St Anne's have achieved in the competitions thus far, they are now eligible to travel to Melbourne and compete in the National finals from November 30th to December 2nd. **Best of luck to both teams.**



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KIDS corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

A Roman virgin who beseeched the angels and saints to protect her virginity. She believed an angel watched over her and once baptised, her husband believed also. With his brother, they buried the martyrs slain by Turcius Almachius.

Her preaching had converted 400 people. She was arrested and sentenced to death. She was buried by Pope Urban and his deacons.

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

Saint Cecilia



Recipe...



Christmas Biscuits

- Ingredients:**
- 125g butter, at room temperature
 - 1/2 cup (115g) caster sugar
 - 1/4 cup (60ml) milk
 - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 - 1 1/2 cups (225g) self-raising flour
 - 1/2 cup (70g) custard powder
 - Silver and gold sparkling cachous, to decorate

Method:

- Preheat oven to 180°C. Line two baking trays with non-stick baking paper.
- Use an electric beater to beat the butter and sugar until pale and creamy. Beat in milk and vanilla extract. Fold in the flour and custard powder.
- Press the dough into a ball and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 30 minutes to rest.
- Divide the dough into manageable portions. Roll out one portion on a sheet of non-stick baking paper to about 1cm thick. Use Christmas cookie cutters to cut shapes and place on the trays. Decorate with cachous.
- Bake for 10 minutes or until light golden. Cool for 5 minutes on the trays before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. Repeat with remaining dough.

For those of you preparing a bit early for Christmas why not sweeten up the festive season with biscuits that are sure to make Santa and his team smile. **These make a great gift idea** - simply wrap in cellophane and add a ribbon to make a wonderful gift for your teacher, friends or pastor.



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!



NOVEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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



- All Saints**
All Souls
St. Martin de **Porres**
St. Charles **Borromeo**
St. **Leo** the Great
St. **Martin** of Tours
St. Frances Xavier **Cabrini**
St. **Margaret** of Scotland
St. **Elizabeth** of Hungary
Presentation of **Mary**
St. **Andrew**
St. **Albert** the Great
St. Andrew **Dung-Lac**
St. **Cecilia**
St. **Clement** I of Rome
St. **Columban**
Christ the King



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Body and Soul: Train Them for God

Our school's swimmers once asked me to use the chapel before state competition. Their

goal was to spend time meditating, to let God calm them so they could swim their best.

Our bodies, souls, minds, and hearts are connected. You can't devote one toward a goal successfully without devoting all the others as well. Judaism has always taught that. Drawing on his Jewish faith, Jesus emphasises loving God with your whole self: your heart, your understanding, and your strength.

Like sports, discipleship requires training your entire self, which takes time. But you never develop the skills unless you start practicing. So here are some tips if you're ready for training.

Body:

Get enough sleep. It's hard to show compassion when you're tired. Discipline your appetites. Excessive food and drink creates health problems that can keep you from serving others.

Mind:

Talk about your faith. Challenge it. Debate it with other Christians. Pay close attention in RE class. Learn why millions let it guide their lives. Read the paper. Think about the answers our faith offers to today's problems.

Soul:

Pray daily. Listen – don't just talk – in prayer. Take five-minute breaks with God during the day. Let God remind you that Jesus is with you regardless of what happens.

Heart:

Let yourself feel for people

who suffer – the kid who never fits in, the hungry person at a soup kitchen, or the sick person dying alone. Don't lock up your emotions when you hurt. Express them to people you trust to help you sort them out.

Remember that it takes time to develop any skill. So be patient with yourself as you train for discipleship. God's not concerned with how well you do. God just wants to see you practicing.

On which part of my whole self do I need to spend more time in training for discipleship: my body, my mind, my soul, or my heart?





WORLD YOUTH DAY

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St Patrick's Primary School, Griffith



On November 2, St Patrick's Primary School in Griffith had their Colour Fun Run!



Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga



Congratulations to all the students who received certificates on 5 November after completing ICAS tests earlier this year.

St Joseph's Primary School, Junee

Well done to all of the children in the group photo below who received reading awards on 2 November. And a huge congratulations to Damon and Tom (pictured right) for receiving the Principal's Award.



St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton



The smiling faces tell the story of Grandparents' Day 2018 at St Joseph's Primary on November 2!



St Brendan's Primary, Ganmain



Congratulations to this week's award winning students!

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All schools enrolling now for 2019



St Anne's Primary School, North Albury

Congratulations to Kijana who achieved a silver medal in high jump while representing MacKillop at the State PSSA Athletics in Sydney on October 31! **Well done Kijana!**



What an awesome weekend of basketball! Our students were enthusiastic, showed great sportsmanship, played hard and most had fun.



St Mary's School, Corowa



What an amazing performance by all the talented students on October 25, supported by the equally talented staff and members of the school learning community.



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga



The Year 7 Band, Scratch and Heatstroke entertained participants in the 2018 Relay for Life. Well done to the students for their performance and congratulations to all of the participants in this year's Relay for Life.

Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

Student leaders held a cake stall to raise money for Catholic Missions.

Year 12 (2019) students baked delicious sweets with a total of \$240 collected. **Congratulations to all involved!**



St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera

Kinder transition... It was all about Playdough, Pigs & Popcorn. The children listened to the Three Little Pigs and then used the face puppets to act out the story.

They played with Playdough, sang nursery rhymes, practiced writing their names and even played a game of "What's the time Mr Wolf?"

In the afternoon they felt, smelt and had a discussion about popcorn seeds and how we could turn them into something we could eat. After the discussion they made some popcorn, sequenced the activity and then the children enjoyed eating the popcorn.



St Peter's Primary School Coleambally



Congratulations to the wonderful Year 3 students who received the Eucharist for the first time on Sunday 4 November. **You were all amazing!!**

‘A tribute that will go down in Australian history’

by **Claire Hunter**
Australian War Memorial

When Phillip Johnson and the team behind the 5,000 Poppies project began “planting” 62,000 poppies at the Australian War Memorial, he was thinking of his great-grandfather, Frederick Richard Johnson.

Phillip is an award-winning landscape designer, and his great-grandfather was one of the 62,000 Australians who died during the First World War.

At the end of September, Phillip and an army of volunteers began transforming 4,000 square metres of the Memorial’s grounds into a field of red as part of the Memorial’s five-week commemorative program marking the centenary of the Armistice that ended the First World War.

They began planting the 62,000 knitted and crocheted poppies on 29 September – the same day Phillip’s great-grandfather was mortally wounded 100 years ago.

“The magnitude of loss is very overwhelming,” Phillip said.

“I wanted to design a tribute that was respectful, that was moving, that would allow people to slow down and connect with this field of 62,000 poppies in honour of the 62,000 Australians who lost their lives in the First World War.

“It’s just beautiful to think that

people back here in Australia – maybe in Ballarat, maybe in Canberra, knitting or crocheting a poppy in honour of their families – have all united and come together.

“Every individual poppy is unique, and they’ve been made by people around the world who have their own personal connections to this project, and I think that’s what’s so beautiful.

“I believe this is a tribute that is going to go down in Australian history, and it’s a tribute I urge all Australians to come, and experience, and to connect with.”

Phillip first became involved in the 5,000 Poppies when he was introduced to one of the co-founders, Lynn Berry, five years ago.

In 2013, Lynn and her sister-in-law, Margaret Knight, set out to knit 120 poppies in honour of their fathers’ service during the Second World War, but their small personal tribute soon became a massive community project that would capture the public imagination and take them around the world.

Together, they carpeted the steps of Melbourne’s Federation Square with 260,000 poppies for Anzac Day 2015 before taking the entire installation to London for the Chelsea Flower Show and to the battlefields of France for the centenary of the battle of Fromelles.

Now, five years later, some

50,000 volunteers have made more than 300,000 poppies and devoted more than a million hours to the project, culminating in the 62,000 Poppies display at the Memorial to commemorate Remembrance Day 2018 and the centenary of the Armistice.

For Phillip, the 62,000 Poppies display at the Memorial is particularly special. His great-grandfather was killed just weeks before the war ended.

“He was pretty much the same age as I am now, and he died pretty much on the day that we start to plant the poppies at the Australian War Memorial,” Phillip said.

“There was this beautiful letter that he wrote back home to his wife: *‘Last night Mabel, I had the most beautiful dream, about holding your hand, walking along our creek, Reedy Creek, just north of Melbourne, and it was the most magical dream.’* And then he woke up, and he was still in the trenches, and he never returned.”

Frederick Richard Johnson was managing a gold mine in country Victoria when he enlisted in March 1916 at the age of 43 and 10 months. He said goodbye to his wife and two young children for what would be the last time, and embarked for overseas service in May 1917, serving as a Lieutenant with the 1st Australian Tunnelling Company.

He was greatly admired by his men and was known as a kind and sensitive man – writing scores of letters to his wife and children back home in Australia and even sponsoring an orphaned Belgian child to be cared for by a friend in England.

It was just six weeks before the end of the war when Frederick was killed. He was part of a road reconnaissance party near the French village of Bony during the attack on the Hindenburg Line at



Landscape designer Phillip Johnson with 5,000 Poppies co-founder Lynn Berry.

Bellicourt on 29 September 1918. They were inspecting a rural road for mines as the infantry moved forward when a shell burst alongside them, severely wounding Frederick in the thigh and elbow. He was taken to the 12th Casualty Clearing Station, but died the following afternoon.

He was 46 years old and is buried in Tincourt New British Cemetery near Péronne. But his service and sacrifice have never been forgotten.

His great-grandson Phillip has visited Frederick’s grave twice. The second time was after the 5,000 Poppies project planted 26,000 poppies at the foot of the “Cobbers” sculpture in the Australian Memorial Park at Fromelles to commemorate the centenary of the battle.

“It’s an overwhelming feeling,” Phillip said. “He passed away five days before Australia was pulled off the front line in Péronne. When my father and my brother visited his grave about 25 years ago, they met a lovely Frenchman, a Rotarian, and he said he just couldn’t thank Australia enough for what they did. Every year since, he’s been going to Frederick’s gravesite, and putting some eucalypt

leaves there, cleaning the grave and sending photos home to Australia.

“It’s extraordinary... I just can’t imagine in this day and age, leaving my family for four years, and being so close to returning home, and then not returning. My great-grandmother thought he’d survived because of the delay in communication ... But she left the gold mine and never returned.”

For Phillip, it’s important to remember the sacrifices of those like his great-grandfather who fought during the First World War.

“It’s a part of our Australian history and part of what’s made Australia the incredible place that we have today,” he said. “I urge everyone to come and see this amazing tribute. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity ... and to help bring this amazing community project to the Australian War Memorial has been an absolute honour.”

The 62,000 Poppies display will be open from 9am to 10pm daily at the Australian War Memorial from October 5 to November 11 as part of the Honour their Spirit commemorative program.



St. Francis Parish News: Yenda, Yoogali, Hanwood

by Fr. Peter Stojanovic



Parish Rosary garden.

St. Francis Parish is comprised of three small village communities: Yenda, Yoogali, and Hanwood. Though they be small, big things have been happening recently. On October 7, 'Rosary Sunday', traditionally the Feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary, the small Catholic community of Yoogali, gathered in the *Parish Rosary Garden* (see photo) after Sunday Mass to join in a World Rosary event (particularly promoted through the Internet) to unite with Catholics around the world in joining forces to pray for world peace and families on the day

commemorating the great Christian and Marian victory of Lepanto in 1571, a victory of prayer and the power of the intercessory Rosaries.

The historic church in Yoogali, built by the pioneering Catholic Italian immigrants in the area some eighty years ago, is named fittingly: 'Our Lady of Pompeii', or otherwise 'Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii', the patroness of Italian migrants. Pompeii is a small historic town in Italy near Naples. The old Pompeii is famous for ancient ruins of a pagan Roman community. The new Pompeii nearby is famous

for one of the biggest Catholic shrines in the world that honours Our Lady of the Rosary. There the Rosary is promoted and prayed daily by thousands of pilgrims before a sacred and miraculous image of 'Madonna dela Rosario di Pompei' which is duly venerated.

In this month of October I recall the moving words of Our Lady in a private revelation: "You have invoked me by various titles and have always obtained favour from me. Now, since you have called me by that title so pleasing to me, 'Queen of the Holy Rosary,' I can no longer refuse the favour that you ask: for this name is most precious and dear to me..."

These words were spoken by Our Blessed Mother in 1884 in an approved apparition of Our Lady which occurred in Naples near Pompeii. It was in the house of Commander Agrelli where Our Heavenly Mother deigned to make known the manner in which she loves to be invoked. For 13 months Fortuna Agrelli, the daughter of the Commander, had endured dreadful sufferings and tortuous cramps. She had been given up by the most celebrated physicians. On Feb, 16, 1884, the afflicted girl and her relatives began a novena of Rosaries.

The Queen of the Holy Rosary favoured Fortuna with an apparition on March 3rd. Mary, sitting upon a high throne, surrounded by luminous figures, held the divine Child on her lap, and in her hand a Rosary. The Virgin Mother and the Holy infant were clad in gold-embroidered garments. They were accompanied by St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Sienna. (see the image of Our Lady of Pompeii)

Mary looked upon the sufferer with maternal tenderness. The patient saluted her with the words: "Queen of the Holy Rosary, be gracious to me; restore me to health." It was on this occasion that the Mother of God made known the manner in which she loves to be invoked, and the title she holds as precious and dear to her: "Queen of the Holy Rosary."



The new golden tabernacle directly beneath the beautiful Crucifix.



Children of Hanwood making their formal commitment.

In other news from St. Francis Parish, in October, in Yenda, First Saturday devotions were held in St. Therese church before the Blessed Sacrament. Newly restored candelabra brightly shining flank the Monstrance. Mario James of Melbourne has recently brought back to life tarnished brass of St. Francis Parish, that now looks as good as gold! Mario James father is noted for having restored the candles of Penola and Portland churches were St. Mary of the Cross used to polish the candles.

The new golden tabernacle, as pictured directly beneath the beautiful Crucifix, is from the Treviso region of Italy where

many Italians in the area come from. It was kindly donated to the parish by a generous benefactor, and brought over from Italy by another generous benefactor, free of charge.

Finally, in Hanwood, recently the Confirmation class of the local State school children made there formal commitment as members of the Church and were duly confirmed with a joyous celebration of the sacrament in St. Anthony's church. Congratulation to one and all! **Truly many blessings have rained down on Yenda, Yoogali, Hanwood parish this past month or so. May the seeds of grace continue to grow!**



Our Lady of Pompeii.

- Cars
- Trucks
- Buses
- Utes

6921 9977

6-10 Edward St, Wagga Wagga www.avis.com.au

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 - 7:00am
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
Saturday (Vigil) - 7:00pm
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.
Urangeline
St Terence’s Church
Currently no Masses.

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

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

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

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

continued on page 31...

Tumbarumba

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

Urana

St Fiacre's Church
5 End St, Urana
Weekend Masses
Saturday (Vigil) - 5:30pm
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.
Oaklands
Currently no Masses.

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

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



Wagga Wagga Deanery

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

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

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

Murray Deanery

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

Murrumbidgee Deanery

Griffith - Sacred Heart Parish
Where: Sacred Heart Youth Hut (white hut behind Presbytery)
Youth Group
Who for: Yrs 7-12
When: 7-8pm on the first & third Tuesday of the month

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

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

1 November 1914	Fr John J Gaffey
2 November 1960	Fr Cyril Joseph Cochrane
9 November 1977	Fr Ronald Corbett
10 November 1998	Fr Leo Francis Wright
13 November 1891	Fr Andrew Walsh
16 November 1969	Fr Charles William Holdsworth
19 November 1965	Fr John Joseph Byrne
19 November 2002	Fr Dennis Allen
20 November 2006	Fr John Whiting
23 November 1957	Fr Francis Hubert Gallagher
26 November 1910	Fr Joseph Dowling
26 November 1923	Fr John Gallagher
27 November 1997	Fr Frederick Harry Myhill-Taylor
30 November 1990	Fr Nicholas Simonazzi OFM Cap.

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

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From the Missal: November

4th November - Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

You shall love the Lord your God. The commandment to love God with all one's being is kept constantly before the Jewish people. It is recited daily in prayer; and, written on a small scroll, it is worn on their person and enshrined at the entrance to their homes. To observe this commandment our love must embrace the whole of creation, especially our fellow human beings made in God's image.

Deut 6:2-6	The Lord is one
Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51	My rock, my saviour
Heb 7:23-28	Christ's power to save
Mk 12:28-34	Love God, love neighbour

11th November - Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

She has put in everything she had. Jesus had little time for the unholy trinity of conspicuous wealth, self-righteousness and ostentatious piety. He suggests that, when we give alms, we 'do not sound a trumpet before (us)' (Mt 6:2). According to St Ambrose, 'God does not consider what one gives but what one keeps.' Could it be that we give too little and keep too much?

1 Kings 17:10-16	Widow heeds Elijah
Ps 145:7-10	Praise the Lord!
Heb 9:24-28	Christ's sacrifice
Mk 12:38-44	Put in all she had

18th November - Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

My words will not pass away. We live in a world of rapid change. Many of the places of our childhood have gone or been altered significantly. Customs, attitudes and pastimes are different now. All of this reminds us of the transitory nature of life. The heavens and the earth as we know them are passing away. Only the word of God stands forever. May we place our trust in the kingdom of God and not in the passing kingdoms we create.

Dan 12:1-13	Great distress
Ps 15:5, 8-11	The path of life
Heb 10:11-14, 18	A single sacrifice
Mk 13:24-32	Power and glory

25th November - Last Sunday in Ordinary Time OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (Solemnity)

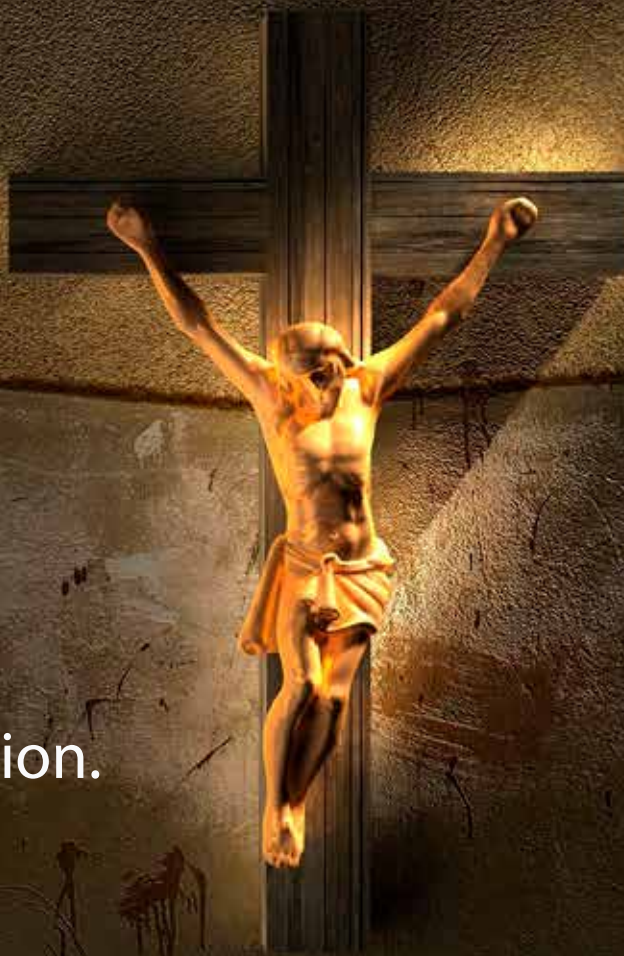
Bearing witness to the truth. Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. His role as king is to bear witness to the truth that God is love (1 Jn 4:8, 16). He does this through his words but most especially through his death on the cross. By listening to his voice and participating in the Eucharistic banquet we are drawn closer to him. Then, as shares in his kingship, we are commissioned to go out and promote the kingdom of God in our world.

Dan 7:13-14	A son of man
Ps 92:1-2, 5	The Lord is king
Apoc 1:5-8	Alpha and Omega
Jn 18:33-37	Yes, I am a king

NOVEMBER 2018 TOGETHER

Religious Freedom

Religious freedom is owed to all people, whether from a Christian, Jewish, Muslim or other faith tradition. Religious believers are the great majority of Australians.



What is it?

The freedom we have as people of faith to participate in the community and live our faith is called religious freedom.

It is not just freedom to worship, important as that is. The fundamental character of religious belief is public, which is why people of faith build houses of worship and undertake good works.

Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”

Religious freedom is owed to all people, whether from a Christian, Jewish, Muslim or other faith tradition. Religious believers are the great majority of Australians.

Why is it being talked about now?

Then Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, announced the Religious Freedom Review in November 2017, to reassure those people concerned about the impact on religious freedom of redefining marriage. An Expert Panel chaired by Philip Ruddock delivered its report to the Prime Minister on Friday, 18 May.

Leaked recommendations from the Ruddock Report created a storm of controversy in October. Claims were made that religious schools would use anti-discrimination legislation to turn away gay students and teachers. Catholic bishops responded that those who seek employment or enrolment in a Catholic school will be asked if they understand and accept the values of that school and are expected to uphold those values. Catholic schools are concerned about behaviour, not identity.

The Morrison Government is expected to publish the report of the Religious Freedom Review and its plans for

religious freedom before the end of the year.

ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr announced on 24 October his government would remove legal protections that allow religious schools to hire staff or select students who support the ethos of the school. The Catholic Education Office had not been consulted before the announcement.

What did the Catholic Church say to the Religious Freedom Review?

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference submission highlighted three key opportunities to reform Australia’s laws to better support freedom of religion and belief:

- A positive expression of religious freedom in Australian law, to address the concern that religious freedom is only ever expressed by way of exception or exemption, rather than as a right. This would operate in addition to the existing express exceptions and exemptions

in anti-discrimination laws, which have the benefit of established acceptance and meaning

- To clarify religious freedom protection offered to religious bodies so they cannot be compelled to allow Church property to be used for purposes which do not accord with their beliefs, and
- Amending existing legislation that restricts freedom of conscience, especially for those engaged in medical practice.

Why is religious freedom important to Catholics?

- The Catholic Church wants to continue serving people who are in poverty, seeking education or in poor health.
- We want to continue to employ people who wish to join us in these worthy goals according to our beliefs and values.
- We want to continue to partner with governments without any threat that funding or contracts will be denied because of our beliefs,

or subject to conditions that contravene those beliefs.

- Parents, of all faiths and none, choose Catholic schools for their children because they expect that this education will be provided by school staff in a manner consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church: this goes to the very heart of the identity and mission of Catholic schools
- Staff in Catholic schools have a professional obligation to be supportive of the teachings of the Catholic Church, to act as role models to students and to do nothing publicly that would undermine the transmission of those teachings.
- Catholic teaching makes it clear that a gay person should be assessed for employment on the same basis as anyone else. That is, staff in a school could reasonably be expected to support the teachings of the particular religion, to not undermine that teaching and to act as role models to their students.

Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

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