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Eternal Rest Grant Unto them, O Lord

Archbishop Christopher Prowse - Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Every year on 2nd November we pray in a special way for those who have died before us. It is called The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day).

Indeed, the whole of November is a special month for us to pray for all who have died. They are our "brothers and sisters" in the death and resurrection of Jesus. In a beautiful expression from our liturgy, we pray for "the eternal repose of their souls".

The Preface for the Dead in the Mass summarises our Christian understanding of death perfectly when it proclaims: "For even though by our own fault we perish, yet by your compassion and your grace, when seized by death according to our sins, we are redeemed through Christ's great victory, and with him called back into life." (Preface V)

Death, in all its expressions in family, friends and others, rejoices in the hope our faith gives in these liturgical prayers of deep tenderness.

However, priests and deacons so often inform me that in assisting families for the funerals of their loved ones, many tensions can surface in the liturgical preparations.

Amongst other factors, it seems that many have had experiences of secular funerals made up of eulogies, photo presentations,

poems and popular music. Too often the richness of liturgical prayers and biblical readings developed in the Catholic Church since ancient times can be put aside or even dismissed.

Thus, the preparation of funerals in the Catholic Church is a pastoral challenge requiring great sensitivity from all of us.

In summary, our Catholic Tradition offers four compass points to move forward. Funerals are to (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 379-385):

- Pray for the repose of the deceased that they may rest in peace.
- Ask the merciful Father of us all to forgive the sins of the deceased.
- In loving remembrance we thank the Risen Lord for his/her life.
- To offer prayers and comforting hope for the bereaved.

The priest or deacon asked to celebrate the funeral determines the content and form of the funeral liturgy, keeping in mind the wishes of the family. We use an officially approved book: "Order of Christian Funerals". This book gives a wonderful selection of prayers, readings and rituals that can be used. Often parish teams are present to assist here.

Responding to requests from priests, I have

prepared a short document on "Guidelines for Catholic Funerals." It will be available on line in these days.

In this document there are some guidelines for the place of eulogies, the place of PowerPoint photo presentations, titles of the ceremonies, liturgical music, and cremations.

In regards to the latter, it needs to be noted that cremations are now more popular than previous times. Whereas the burial or internment of earthly remains the preference of the Church, cremation is allowed. Care needs to be taken, however, to ensure that the ashes are interred in an appropriate place.

Ashes placed "in a sacred place ensures that t

hey are not excluded from the prayers and remembrance of their family or the Christian community. It prevents the faithful departed from being forgotten, or their remains from being shown a lack of respect."

I do hope that this November can also be a time of not only praying for the deceased but also a time to consider calmly our pastoral and liturgical responses to Catholic funerals.

Our local funeral directors too need to be become aware of these guidelines.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. AMEN**



Prayer Intention for November - Pray with Pope Francis

Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<http://popesprayerusa.net/category/pope-video/>



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP OF PRAYER

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

Far too many wars, political divisions, conflicts and hostilities between the diverse religious communities within the Near East have left populations scared and crippled in moral, financial and spiritual ways. This race to dominate has led to vicious murders that have little regard or respect for one's neighbor.

Local leaders have manifested horrendous attitudes of greed and thirst for power leading to domination and autocratic decision-making, manifesting little interest in what is the best for their people and for humanity as a whole.

May enough people in the Near East

be sufficiently open and committed to practice repentance or "teshuvah," working towards a change of attitude in order to encounter "the other" who is different. This will require greater efforts to engage in healthy dialogue. Such action will remove the possibility of losing hope. We remember the words of Pope John Paul II, how we "must not abandon ourselves to despair." We pray with Pope Francis for a spirit of openness, for compassion and respect towards those we see as different; may this lead to eventual peace between different communities and diverse religions.



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.

Catholic Church announces national drought prayer

The Catholic Church in Australia is dedicating the month of November as a time to pray for those affected by crippling drought conditions and to pray for the gift of rain.

Parishes, schools, families and other Catholic communities across the country are being encouraged to participate in the National Prayer Campaign for Drought, which also invites people to provide assistance to those most in need.

The Bureau of Meteorology says that, on some measures, the current drought is the worst in 100 years or more, with most parts of Australia’s eastern states declared to be in drought.

Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE from Wilcannia-Forbes oversees a diocese that covers about half of New South Wales, including some of the most drought-affected areas in the country.

He said the month of prayer is an additional response to the local work being done in affected communities.

“Some of our Catholic ministries, along with other faith-based, charitable and government organisations, are doing remarkable work, supporting people with material needs, offering financial support and responding to people’s psychological and spiritual needs,” Bishop Columba said.

“In some dioceses, practical responses like school fee relief or support with rising utility bills can ease an increasing burden for families.

“But in a Catholic context, prayer must be a part of our response.”

Bishop Columba said the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments, has stories of rain being “God’s gift” to people who are suffering,

“In times of drought like we are experiencing now, we should pray for God’s gift of rain, which will have the power to quench our arid lands and also lift many people’s fallen spirits,” he said.

Bishop Columba said the National Prayer Campaign must be truly national, noting that the whole country suffers when there is a drought – especially one of this magnitude. The Church needs to be an example of recognising that reality.

“That people living where there is plentiful, or at least enough, water don’t seem aware of how much suffering the drought is causing only adds to the hardship of those in drought-affected communities,” he said.

“The Church across Australia – lay people, religious, priests and bishops alike – needs to stand in solidarity with those suffering most acutely, offering prayers and practical support to those in most need.”

Prayer resources have been developed for parishes, schools, communities and families to participate in the National Prayer Campaign. They can be accessed at www.catholic.org.au/drought

Additional resources will be added during the campaign.



National Prayer Campaign
for the gift of rain, for people affected by drought, for support services

Eternal God,

In wisdom and love
you created our earth
to sustain us and give us life.

We turn to you now
in faith, hope and love,
asking you to look with favour
on our drought-stricken land,
on our starving animals,
on our failing crops.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart
to our farmers
and to all who are affected by drought;
be with those who support them.

In your loving providence,
send abundant rain
and restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion,
hear our prayer
through Jesus Christ your Son,
in whom the promise of new life
has dawned, and
through the power
of the Holy Spirit,
the Lord the giver of life:
Renew your faithful people;
Renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross,
Mary, help of Christians –
Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop –
Pray for us.

catholic.org.au/drought

Fr Paddy celebrates his Silver Jubilee

Fr Paddy celebrated his 25th Silver Jubilee Year of service on a stunning day at the open air Tree Chapel in the Botanical Gardens on Sunday 20 October.

by Karene Eggleton

A better location couldn't have been chosen with around 400 people packed into the spectacular Tree Chapel to celebrate Fr Paddy's milestone.

Fr Paddy spoke of his calling and how it happened later in his life. He quoted philosopher Francis Bacon's work, *The Hound of Heaven* and how we may try to get away from it but eventually the hound will catch up with us all. Fr Paddy put off his calling for many years, making excuses and trying to keep himself busy by studying a degree in Economics at the University of Sydney.

He then worked for a few years as an accountant and eventually returned to his family farm in Humula to assist his family run sheep and cattle.

The hound finally caught up with him, and at age 27 Fr Paddy began his training for the Priesthood in Melbourne. After Ordination he was appointed to Griffith Parish as Assistant Priest. He then spent 12 years as a Chaplain for the Royal Australian Navy. Upon returning to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga Fr Paddy was appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, South Wagga Wagga.

Sadly, his mother died from cancer when he was only 12 years old so she didn't get to see her son enter the priesthood but no doubt she is watching over him and very proud. Fr Paddy's father always knew it was something he would do and his five siblings all welcomed his decision.



Fr Paddy reflects, "I believe I'm doing what God wants me to do. I think I have gifts in this area, and proclaiming the gospel has its merits and attractiveness." Fr Paddy is aware the vocation comes with enormous sacrifice but also carries so much joy in being invited into people's lives for their significant moments.

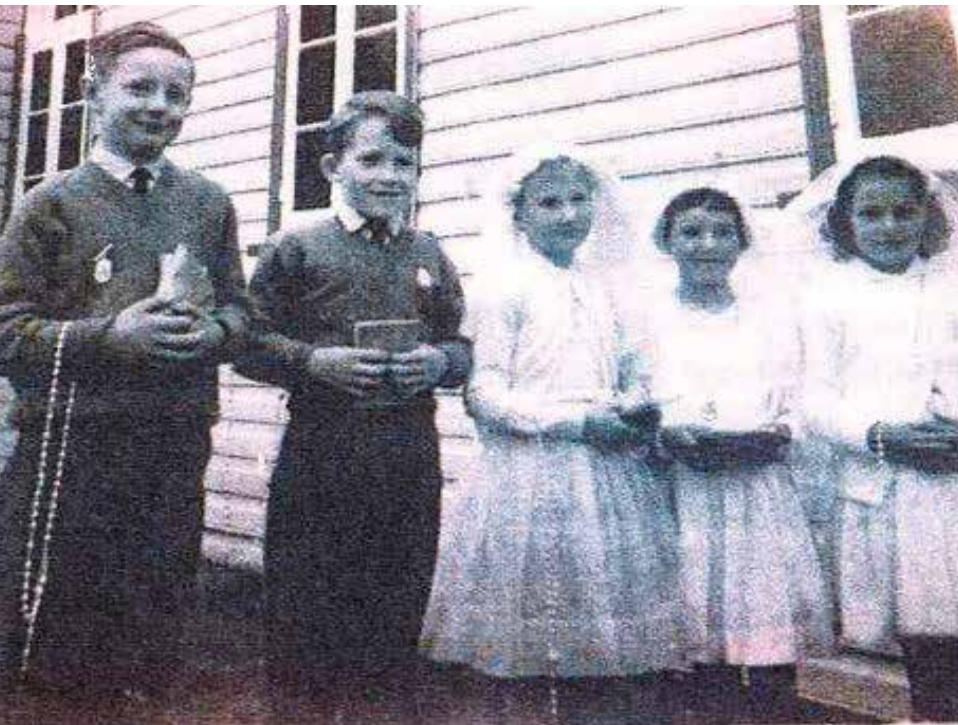
"I've never taken for granted the privilege it is to see people at their highs and lows." he said.

Prue Horan, President of the Parish Pastoral Council, was the MC for the Mass. Fr Paddy's former room mate during his time at University, Stephen Byrnes, spoke and had many of us in fits of laughter reminiscing about their antics.

Kevin Bates, Ken Grimson and Fr Paddy's sister Bernadette Eastham participated in the Mass along with students from Kildare Catholic College. The service concluded with students from the Henschke Choir singing a beautiful rendition of *We Remember* organised by Sophie Cheney.

Fr Paddy then cut his impressive cake made by the very talented, Bree Camp.

"I've never taken for granted the privilege it is to see people at their highs and lows."



Father Paddy at his confirmation

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Everyone then gathered in the gardens and shared good food, good company and lots of laughter.

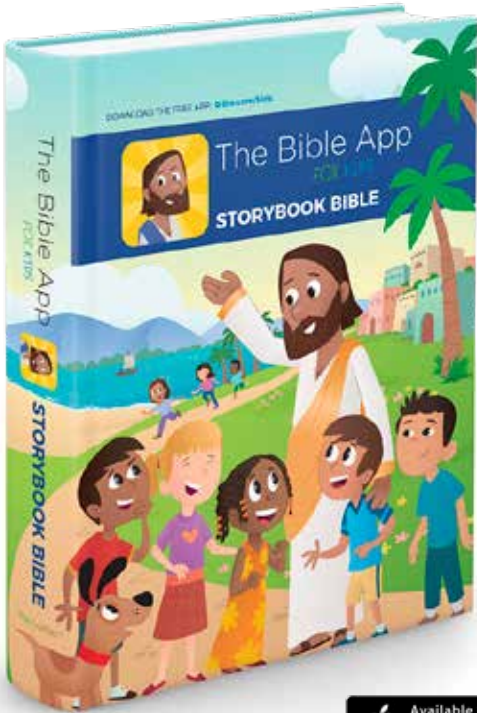
Congratulations on your Silver Jubilee Fr Paddy.

Fr Paddy would like to thank everyone who contributed to make his 25th Jubilee Mass such a wonderful occasion. He extends thanks to the parishioners for their generosity towards the icon; the Kildare students who assisted; the Henschke children for their liturgical dance to 'We Remember'; the choir and musicians, parish secretaries, Steve McCoy from Soundfits, those who organised the cakes and were involved in arranging the Mass booklet and liturgy and all who helped prepare the site, especially Peter Bryant.



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50th

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



**Friday 21st February to
Sunday 23rd February 2020**

All past students or parishioners are most welcome to attend the three days of activities.

Full program in next month's edition...

Wagga Carmelite Monastery: Chapel overflows at farewell Mass for 'spiritual powerhouse'

On 6 November, Wagga's Carmelite Monastery was full to overflowing with parishioners and well-wishers for a 'mass of thanksgiving' to mark it's closure after 53 years.

by **Rex Martinich** *The Daily Advertiser*

Catholic Diocese of Canberra Goulburn Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Vatican City ambassador to Australia Adolfo Tito C. Yllana joined the packed congregation at the monastery's chapel in Ashmont on Wednesday afternoon.

Archbishop Prowse said Wagga's Bishop in 1966, Francis Henschke, had sought to establish a "spiritual powerhouse" with the monastery but died before the building was opened two years later.

"It's a sad day but at the same time a day of thanksgiving to the Lord for allowing 53 years of the presence of the Carmelite Sisters," he said.

The order will close the monastery and seek a buyer for the property due to a lack of incoming nuns, with the three sisters at Wagga returning to the head monastery in Melbourne.

Archbishop Prowse said he had visited former Wagga Bishop Frank Carroll in hospital as he had been unable to attend the Mass and passed on his reflections.

"One of Bishop Henschke's dreams had always been to have two communities of contemplatives in his diocese - one for women and one for men," Bishop Carroll stated.

"He had a great faith in their lives of prayer and looked to them to be a spiritual powerhouse for the local church."

The Mass also recognised the support of the Women's Auxillary and

“ It's a sad day but at the same time a day of thanksgiving to the Lord for allowing 53 years of the presence of the Carmelite Sisters. ”

Men's Committee in establishing the monastery.

Archbishop Prowse paid tribute to the monastery's "courageous leader" Sister Bernadette who was the superior at Wagga for 43 years after "settling into the plains of the Riverina" with the original small group of Sisters.

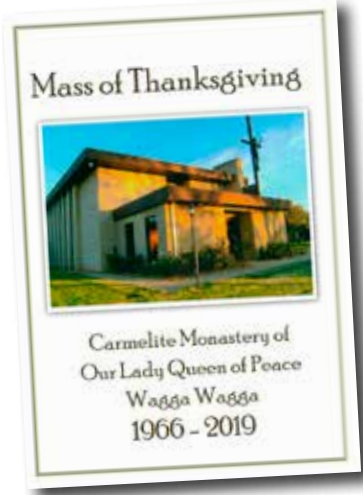
Superior of the House Sister Maria said she had been given the "rare privilege" of effectively "speaking at your own funeral" but also joked about the monastery's famous lamington and cake sales.

"You have no doubt seen in the media the statistics that the Riverina has the highest rate of diabetes and obesity on the land; well perhaps this is the forgiving moment to publicly acknowledge our complicity," she said.

"In making those luscious lamingtons for 20 years, we were only thinking of shrinking our debt, spreading joy and making friends, and that we did."



Wagga's Carmelite Monastery Superior of the House Sister Maria speaks a a 'mass of thanksgiving' on Wednesday. Photo by Rex Martinich



Blessing the foundation stone, 31st May 1966.

Archbishop Francis Carroll – A Reflection

The first time I met the new community of Sisters was when I drove Bishop Henschke out to their temporary accommodation in Colong Place. One of Bishop Henschke’s dreams had always been to have two communities of contemplatives in his Diocese – one of women and one of men. He had a great faith in their lives of contemplative prayer and looked to them to be a spiritual powerhouse for the local church.

Now almost in the twilight of his life, half of his dream was realised. He was keen to see them in their permanent home, and would soon bless the foundation stone of their Monastery. He did not live to see the completion of the building but left the privilege of blessing the finished work to his successor, myself.

In his always practical wisdom, he suggested to the new foundation’s superior, Sister Bernadette, that before the enclosure of the Sisters took effect, some of them should visit parishes and introduce themselves and their way of life to the wider church. From those visits strong bonds of prayer and friendship

developed, giving spiritual reassurance to many life-long friends who in turn provided great practical assistance to the Sisters. Many of those earlier friends and a number of Sisters have gone to their eternal reward but the bonds remain strong and will always be part of the history of this place and a large reason for the prayer of thanksgiving that we all offer today.

The establishment of the Women’s Auxiliary and the Men’s Committee provided ongoing mutual support in these ways. The Sisters, however, provided a lot of their own support and the production of lamingtons and chocolates come to mind. They also promoted, at their famous fetes, the skincare products made by their sisters in Melbourne. Not to mention the annual pilgrimage from Griffith.

While it is very sad the Sisters are leaving us, we remain grateful for their being the powerhouse of prayer for those more than 50 years and it is fitting that this celebration is a Mass of Thanksgiving.

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Catholic Diocese of Canberra Goulburn Archbishop Christopher Prowse speaks at a 'mass of thanksgiving' at Wagga's Carmelite Monastery. Photo by Rex Martinich

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Catholic Diocese of Canberra Goulburn Archbishop Christopher Prowse and Vatican City ambassador to Australia Adolfo Tito C. Yllana. Photo by Rex Martinich

HOMILY

PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT: ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE
CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF CANBERRA AND GOULBURN
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR FOR WAGGA WAGGA
CONCELEBRANT:

ARCHBISHOP ADOLFO TITO YLLANA APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO AUSTRALIA

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14, 8-10

Ephesians 3:14-19

Gospel Luke 2:41-51

On the 31st of May 1966, the Feast of the Visitation, Bishop Henschke lay the foundation stone of the Carmelite Monastery of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Wagga Wagga.

It is therefore entirely appropriate that the Readings today reflect the infancy narratives of our Gospels.

The Gospel today is "The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple".

We hear of the anguish of Mary and Joseph in searching for Jesus. Mary says on finding Jesus in the temple amongst the religious leaders, "My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you." After this episode, the "hidden life" of Jesus begins. For the next 30 years, his life and faith are nurtured in the Holy family of Nazareth.

This is foreshadowed in the First Reading from the prophet Isaiah. There is the prophetic foreshadowing of the coming of the Saviour in the prophesy of Isaiah when he states "The Lord himself, therefore, will give you're a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means, "God-is-with-us".

In both the foreshadowing of Jesus in the centuries before and the coming of the Lord through Mary, we see that all is grace. All is gift from our loving God. This surely is one of the fundamental charisms of the Carmelite gift to the Church, and expressed particularly in the Saint and Doctor of the Church, St Therese of Lisieux – that is, all is providence from the God who is all-good.

We see this meditated upon in our Responsorial Psalm today. The psalmist speaks on our behalf and proclaims for all eternity our experience of God and our humble response in return. We are to "Taste and see, taste and see, that the

Lord the lord is good, the Lord is good!" (Psalm 33)

Returning to the initiative of Bishop Henschke over 50 years ago regarding the Carmelite foundation here at Wagga Wagga, he certainly had a prophetic dream that expressed the goodness and the giftedness of God to us.

We think particularly of Archbishop Frank Carroll today, most surely he would have wanted to be here. We pray for him in his illness and ask for God's blessing upon him. Providentially, he was able to write a few reflections about the Carmelites some weeks ago and his comments are published in today's Mass booklet.

In reference to his predecessor Bishop Henschke, Archbishop Frank writes, "One of Bishop Henschke's dreams had always been to have two communities of contemplatives in his Diocese – one of women and one of men. He had a great faith in their lives of contemplative prayer and looked to them to be a spiritual powerhouse for the local church.

Now almost in the twilight of his life, half of Bishop Henschke's dream was realised. He was keen to see the nuns in their permanent home, and would soon bless the foundation stone of their Monastery. He did not live to see the completion of the building but left the privilege of blessing the finished work to his successor, Archbishop Carroll."

This is exactly what happened. The newly ordained Bishop Frank Carroll blessed the Memorial Shrine and Church dedicated to Our Lady Queen of Peace on the 9th of June 1968.

We pray particularly in thanksgiving for the many Carmelite Sisters who have come to this place almost entirely from the motherhouse in Kew, Melbourne. We welcome today Sr. Ellen Marie of Jesus, the Prioress general from Kew and all visiting Carmelite Sisters. Indeed, it had been early 1963 that Bishop Henschke approached the Mother Prioress of the Carmelites at Kew requesting a

foundation of Carmelite Contemplatives in his Diocese. He wrote of the need of "a power house of prayer. Each of us has his or her own particular personal worries, sorrows and problems. We would love to be able to pray more about them but have not the time or are perhaps too distressed to do so. This is when we really learn to appreciate the Carmelites – when as it is were, we hand over our problems to them." (Circular letter written 1966)

In February 1966, an advance group of two or three nuns lived as guests of The Blue Sisters at Calvary Hospital. Initially San Isadore was the chosen site but it was later changed to this part of Lena Flynn's property, surrounded by farmland.

In early October 1966, when the founding group of nuns was farewelled from Melbourne, the Kew community encouraged them with much love and prayer. Led by their courageous leader, Sr. Bernadette, the small group of four settled into the plains of the Riverina!

For the first 14 months these four nuns lived in a house in Copland St then in Colong Place and they moved into the monastery while the church was being built.

Providentially, Bishop Henschke encouraged the Sisters to visit the Diocese before their enclosure. This they did with great joy and much pastoral impact.

The nuns were taken quickly into the hearts of generous, welcoming friends and helpers throughout the Diocese. A network of help quickly spread.

A Mary Horsley called the first Auxiliary meeting in November, a month after their arrival in 1966 drawing in friends from Ganmain, Lockhart and surrounds. Many of their children are now the grandparents present this afternoon.

Quickly gathered a close circle of men, led by Charlie Croker, Greg Knight, Bob Houston and Gordon Saggars who formed the Men's Committee.

It is hard to underestimate the gratitude the Sisters have in their shared journey of contemplative prayer at this place over the last 50 years without the dedication and friendship of these Committees and friends from throughout the Diocese. The Sisters also worked hard to pay the financial debt by Offset printing, taking orders of every kind. They also made sweets and chocolates. There was the annual fete that started small but ended up quite a logistical exercise. The lamington business took off with immediate success and addiction for 20

years! As sales increased, the monastery was built and the debt diminished. In 1996, Sr. Bernadette said no more fetes and that enough is enough! It appeared that their primary work of prayer was being upstaged by their magnificent lamingtons!

Over these 53 years, the Sisters have, in a joyful spirit of peace and loving intercession filled a deep spiritual need throughout the region. We think of this in our present situation in times of drought. There have been many "droughts" over these years, especially the confusion and concerns as the local Churches started to implement the changes of the Vatican II Council. In all of this, the Sisters have been a home of nurturing intercession and peacefulness.

The apostolate of the Book of Remembrance started in 1970 through which people from all over Australia have been drawn into the network of God's love and prayerful contact with Carmel.

It is clear, that the Sisters see all that has been as a gift. Let us see their presence with us as a gift from God, which we now at this rather sad moment, give back to God in thanks. Returning to Archbishop Carroll's written comments, he reflects, "While it is very sad the Sisters are leaving us, we remain grateful for them being the powerhouse of prayer for those more than 50 years and it is fitting that this celebration is a Mass of Thanksgiving."

Dear Sisters represented here today, especially led by the Mother Prioress from Kew, we thank you and all those who have gone before you especially those who have been members of this wonderful community of Carmel for 53 years. You have been a great gift to us in so many ways. A wonderful gift from God! Therefore, we now pray God's blessings upon you as you return to Kew. We know that the prayers that you pray here in this place will continue at Kew. We pray over you the prayer of St Paul to the Ephesians in the Second Reading today.

We pray to you that, "Out of his infinite glory, may God give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden selves to grow strong so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God. AMEN.



Mother Prioress Ellen Marie, Sr Maria and the Community thank you for your presence. We wish to assure you of our continuing remembrance in prayer. As in the past, so in the future, it is a privilege and joy to share your journey. We hold you, and all those dear to you, in our hearts with love and eternal gratitude.

Message of hope for World Day of the Poor

In the leadup to the World Day of the Poor, the Church in Australia is recognising volunteers who work to bring hope to those in need.

The third World Day of the Poor, to be observed on Sunday, November 17, will focus on the theme “the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever”.

Taken from the Book of Psalms, Pope Francis said those words “express a profound truth that faith impresses above all on the hearts of the poor, restoring lost hope in the face of injustice, sufferings and the uncertainties of life”.

“The psalm was composed at a time of great economic development that, as often happens, also led to serious social imbalances,” the Holy Father wrote.

“The inequitable distribution of wealth created a significant number of poor people, whose condition appeared all the more dramatic in comparison with the wealth attained by a privileged few.”

Today, too, Pope Francis says, “we must acknowledge many new forms of bondage that enslave millions of men, women, young people and children”.

“Daily we encounter families forced to leave their homeland to seek a living elsewhere; orphans who have lost their parents or were violently torn from them by brutal means of exploitation; young people seeking professional fulfilment but prevented from employment by short-sighted economic policies; victims of different kinds of violence, ranging from prostitution to the narcotics trade, and

profoundly demeaned,” he lamented.

“How can we overlook, too, the millions of immigrants who fall victim to any number of concealed interests, often exploited for political advantage, and are refused solidarity and equality? And all the homeless and ostracised persons who roam the streets of our cities?”

Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, paid tribute to the thousands upon thousands who volunteer in Catholic organisations across Australia to assist those in need.

“They work in our jails, in charitable organisations with those who have fallen on hard times, and they help the most vulnerable members of our community,” he said.

“For this third World Day of the Poor, we say thank you to each and every one of our volunteers. Know that your work is bringing hope to the lives of the poor and poor in spirit.”

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

THIRD WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

17 November 2019

The hope of the poor shall not perish for ever

1. “The hope of the poor will not



perish for ever” (Ps 9:19). These words of the Psalm remain timely. They express a profound truth that faith impresses above all on the hearts of the poor, restoring lost hope in the face of injustice, sufferings and the uncertainties of life.

The Psalmist describes the condition of the poor and the arrogance of those who oppress them (cf. 10, 1-10). He invokes God’s judgment to restore justice and overcome evil (cf. 10, 14-15). In his words, we hear an echo of age-old questions. How can God tolerate this disparity? How can he let the poor be humiliated without coming to their aid? Why does he allow oppressors to prosper instead of condemning their conduct, especially in the light of the sufferings of the poor?

The Psalm was composed at a time of great economic development that, as often happens, also led to serious social imbalances. The inequitable distribution of wealth created a significant number of poor people, whose condition appeared all the more dramatic in comparison with the wealth attained by a privileged few. The Psalmist, observing the situation, paints a picture as realistic as it is true.

It was a time when arrogant and ungodly people hounded the poor, seeking to take possession even of what little they had, and to reduce them to bondage. The situation is not much different today. The economic crisis has not prevented large groups of people from accumulating fortunes that often appear all the more incongruous when, in the streets of our cities, we daily encounter great numbers of the poor who lack the bare necessities of life and are at times harassed and exploited. The words of Book of Revelation come to mind: “You say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing. You do not realize

that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked” (Rev 3:17). The centuries pass, but the condition of rich and poor remains constant, as if history has taught us nothing. The words of the Psalm, then, are not about the past, but about our present, as it stands before God’s judgement.

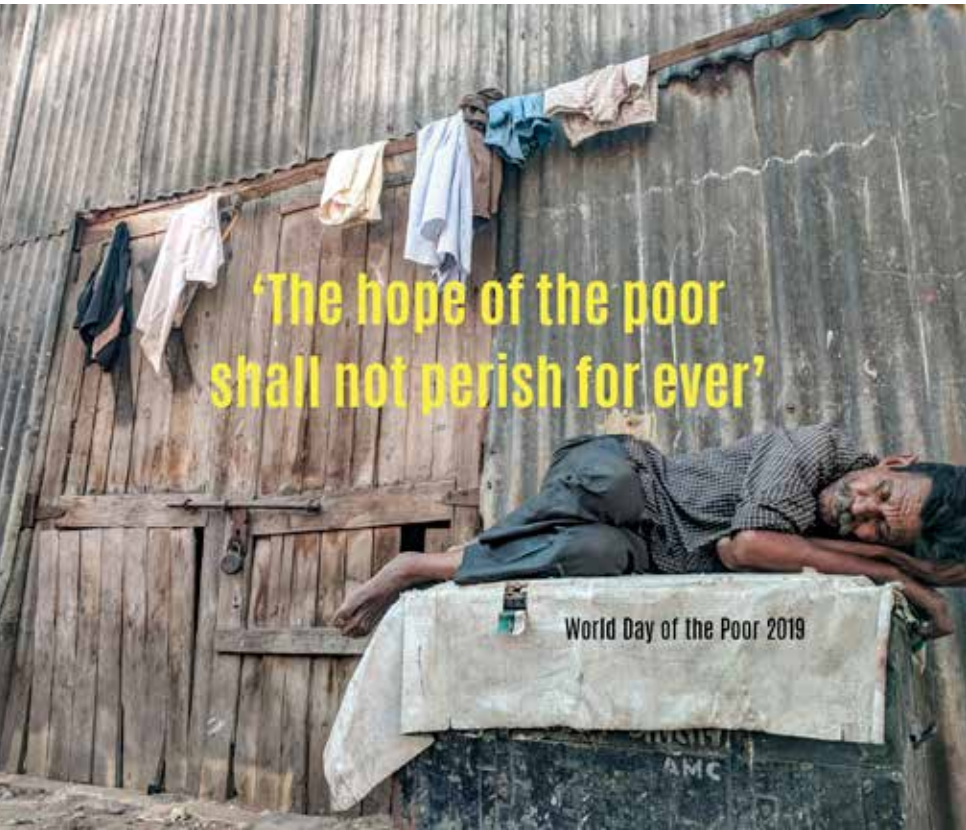
2. Today too, we must acknowledge many new forms of bondage that enslave millions of men, women, young people and children.

Daily we encounter families forced to leave their homeland to seek a living elsewhere; orphans who have lost their parents or were violently torn from them by brutal means of exploitation; young people seeking professional fulfilment but prevented from employment by shortsighted economic policies; victims of different kinds of violence, ranging from prostitution to the narcotics trade, and profoundly demeaned. How can we overlook, too, the millions of immigrants who fall victim to any number of concealed interests, often exploited for political advantage, and are refused solidarity and equality? And all the homeless and ostracized persons who roam the streets of our cities?

3. The setting of the Psalm is tinged with sadness at the injustice, the suffering and the disappointment endured by the poor. At the same time, it offers a touching definition of the poor: they are those who “put their trust in the Lord” (cf. v. 10), in the certainty that they will never be forsaken. In the Scriptures, the poor are those who trust! The Psalmist also gives the reason for this trust: they “know” the Lord (cf. *ibid.*). In the language of the Bible, such “knowledge” involves a personal relationship of affection and love.

Impressive and completely unexpected as this description is, it

continued on page 9...



continued from page 8...

simply expresses the grandeur of God, as shown in the way he relates to the poor. His creative power surpasses all human expectations and is shown in his being “mindful” of each individual (cf. v. 13). It is precisely this confidence in the Lord, this certainty of not being forsaken, that inculcates hope. The poor know that God cannot abandon them.

4. Scripture constantly speaks of God acting on behalf of the poor. He is the one who “hears” their cry” and “comes to their aid”; he “protects” and “defends” them; he “rescues” and “saves” them... Indeed, the poor will never find God indifferent or silent in the face of their plea. God is the one who renders justice and does not forget (cf. Ps 40:18; 70:6); he is their refuge and he never fails to come to their assistance (cf. Ps 10:14).

5. We can never elude the urgent appeal that Scripture makes on behalf of the poor. Wherever we look, the word of God points to the poor, those who lack the necessities of life because they depend on others. They are the oppressed, the lowly and the downcast. Yet, faced with countless throngs of the poor, Jesus was not afraid to identify with each of them: “Whatever you did to one of the least of these my brethren, you did to me” (Mt 25:40). If we refuse to make this identification, we falsify the Gospel and water down God’s revelation. The God that Jesus came to reveal is a Father who is generous, merciful, unfailing in his goodness and grace. He gives hope especially to those who are disillusioned and lacking in hope for the future.

6. In closeness to the poor, the Church comes to realize that she is one people, spread throughout many

nations and called to ensure that no one feels a stranger or outcast, for she includes everyone in a shared journey of salvation. The situation of the poor obliges us not to keep our distance from the body of the Lord, who suffers in them. Instead, we are called to touch his flesh and to be personally committed in offering a service that is an authentic form of evangelization. Commitment to the promotion of the poor, including their social promotion, is not foreign to the proclamation of the Gospel. On the contrary, it manifests the realism of Christian faith and its historical validity. The love that gives life to faith in Jesus makes it impossible for his disciples to remain enclosed in a stifling individualism or withdrawn into small circles of spiritual intimacy, with no influence on social life (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 183).

7. “The option for those who are least, those whom society discards” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 195) is a priority that Christ’s followers are called to pursue, so as not to impugn the Church’s credibility but to give real hope to many of our vulnerable brothers and sisters. Christian charity finds concrete expression in them, for by their compassion and their willingness to share the love of Christ with those in need, they are themselves strengthened and confirm the preaching of the Gospel.

The involvement of Christians in this World Day of the Poor and especially in the events of everyday life, goes beyond initiatives of assistance. Praiseworthy and necessary as the latter may be, they should have the goal of encouraging in everyone a greater concern for individuals in any kind of distress.

Hope is also communicated by



the sense of fulfilment born of accompanying the poor not for a brief moment of enthusiasm, but through a constant commitment over time. The poor acquire genuine hope, not from seeing us gratified by giving them a few moments of our time, but from recognizing in our sacrifice an act of gratuitous love that seeks no reward.

8. I ask the many volunteers, who merit recognition for being the first to see the importance of such concern for the poor, to persevere in their dedicated service. Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to seek, in every poor person whom you encounter, his or her true needs, not to stop at their most obvious material needs, but to discover their inner goodness, paying heed to their background and their way of expressing themselves, and in this way to initiate a true fraternal dialogue. Let us set aside the divisions born of ideological and political positions, and instead fix our gaze on what is

essential, on what does not call for a flood of words, but a gaze of love and an outstretched hand. Never forget that “the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 200).

Before all else, the poor need God and his love, made visible by “the saints next door”, people who by the simplicity of their lives express clearly the power of Christian love. God uses any number of ways and countless means to reach people’s hearts. Certainly, the poor come to us also because we give them food, but what they really need is more than our offer of a warm meal or a sandwich. The poor need our hands, to be lifted up; our hearts, to feel anew the warmth of affection; our presence, to overcome loneliness. In a word, they need love.

9. At times, very little is needed to restore hope. It is enough to stop for a moment, smile and listen. For once, let us set statistics aside: the poor are

continued on page 26...



Fr McGee discovers the joy of painting

It all started when Fr McGee saw an ad on television encouraging people from 8 years old to 80, from all walks of life, to come and enjoy inclusive art classes.

by Karene Eggleton

Having not picked up a brush for over 40 years Fr McGee has now joined three weekly art classes and hasn't looked back.

Fr McGee says that he is no longer able to keep up with the physical demands of working on his beloved bonsai trees nor propagating plants. He loves that art keeps him busy and provides him with a creative outlet.

Fr McGee is the studio's oldest student and I have it on good authority that his classmates fondly call him 'Jimmy'. You will usually find him tucked up the back of the studio creating some beautiful pieces including one of St Michael's Cathedral and one of St Mary's Church, The Rock where he served as Parish Priest for six years.

Fr McGee told me that the Pencil Pines pictured in The Rock art piece line the boundary of the church and 30 of them were planted by himself after his brother

and sister in law, Peter and Patricia McGee had propagated them.

I spoke with his art teacher, Tahlia, from Rabbit Books Art House Studio who said, "Father McGee has become a much valued member of our classes here at Rabbit Books and we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing him at work. Father McGee is proof that it doesn't matter how much time has passed between putting down and picking up the paint brush, art is accessible to all people of all ages and we encourage those people contemplating having a go to come on in and have a go!"

Fr McGee is quite humble about his artistic abilities and speaks very highly of his fellow students skills and was in awe of the talent on show recently at the Young Guns Exhibition.


Keep up the brilliant work Fr McGee, many of us love seeing your stunning creations.



Above: Fr McGee's painting of St Mary's Church, The Rock
Below: Fr McGee enjoying his art classes



St Michael's Cathedral in Wagga Wagga painted by Fr McGee



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Our Lady of Loreto Festa Celebrations

On Sunday 22nd September the Parish of St Anthony's Catholic Church in Hanwood held their annual celebration of Our Lady of Loreto.

The day commenced with Mass in the Church at 11am followed by a procession of Our Lady around the church and concluding with Benediction.

We were privileged to have Father John Spiteri, a Capuchin priest from Melbourne, who was a former brother from Yoogali, Yenda and Hanwood Parish before he entered the priesthood. Fr John came and concelebrated the Mass with Father Peter Stojanovic, our Parish Priest.

Mass was followed by a beautiful three course luncheon in the Parish Hall.

We had approximately 135 in attendance at the luncheon. Lunch started by welcoming Fr John back

to Hanwood by the President of Our Lady of Loreto Committee, Bruno Brombal. Fr John thanked everyone for the welcome and started the lunch by saying Grace.

Everyone settled in for a beautiful lunch followed by the spinning of the Chocolate Wheel and the drawing of the Monster Raffle and the auctioning of items by the Griffith Mayor, John DalBroi, which created much fun and laughter for all.

Bruno thanked everyone who had helped make the day such a huge success and everyone for attending a most enjoyable day. He also thanked all those who donated prizes for the monster raffle, wines, orange juice and prizes for the chocolate wheel.



Persecuted and Forgotten?

Persecuted and Forgotten? A Report on Christians oppressed for their Faith 2017-19 summarises the findings of ACN's ongoing research, assessing recent patterns of hatred and discrimination.

In spite of the growing wealth of information on the subject, the extent of the crisis facing Christians persecuted for their faith remains little known and understood.

While statistical research has offered considerable insight into the topic of Christian persecution, some data has not stood up to scrutiny and is unable to demonstrate that the violence in question is religiously motivated. That said, studies consistently show that Christians suffer significantly high levels of persecution and intolerance.

This 2019 edition of Persecuted and Forgotten? examines key developments in 12 countries of core concern for Christians suffering human rights abuses. Covering a 25-month period from July 2017 to July 2019 (inclusive), the report draws on fact-finding trips carried out by Aid to the Church in Need staff to countries noted for persecution against Christians.

Christians emerge as the world's "most widely targeted" faith group, slightly ahead of Islam. In January 2019, Open Doors estimated in its World Watch List for 2018 that 73 countries with 245 million Christians "showed extreme, very high or high levels of persecution". This was up from 58 countries with 215 million Christians in 2017. The same survey showed that every day on average 11 Christians are killed for their faith in the 50 worst-offending countries.

Main Findings

Summary of findings from Persecuted and Forgotten? A report of Christians Persecution and Oppression in the World 2017 – 2019

Persecution of Christians in core Middle East countries such as Syria and Iraq has declined greatly following a period of genocide earlier in the decade.

The impact of this genocide – continuing migration, security crises, extreme poverty and slow recovery – means that it may now be too late for some Middle East Christian communities to recover. In some towns and cities, the countdown to Christianity's disappearance is ticking ever louder.

The international community, while showing unprecedented concern regarding persecution, is running out of time if it wants to save Christianity in many parts of the Middle East. Measures taken to date may not be enough to secure the future of the Church's presence there.

From Nigeria in West Africa to Madagascar in the east, Christians in parts of Africa are threatened by Islamists seeking to eliminate the Church – either by use of force or by dishonest means, including bribing people to convert.

Persecution against Christians has worsened the most in South and East Asia. This is now the regional hot spot for persecution.

Church attacks in Sri Lanka and the Philippines show that there is now an unholy trinity of threats facing Christians in South and East Asia: Islamic extremism, popularist nationalism and authoritarian regimes.

An increasing unity of purpose between religio-nationalist groups and government represents a growing – and largely unrecognised – threat to Christians and other minorities in India, Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar) and other core countries in South and East Asia.

Around the world, Christians are a favoured target for violent militant extremists who operate without boundaries and who perceive local Christians as a legitimate alternative to a direct strike on the West.

Across the world Christians are persecuted because of their faith. Persecution takes many forms. Christians in the Middle-East have been violently attacked and chased from their homes, neighbours who were once their friends too scared to offer them shelter from Islamist extremists. Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka and the Philippines are only a handful of countries that have been



Common Funeral Service for Easter Sunday Victims at St Sebastian's Church in Katuwapitiya, Negombo, Sri Lanka, on 23rd April 2019

subject to bomb attacks in the recent months. Christians widows in Nigeria have been left with no money when their husbands have been murdered by extremists.

The list of victims of Christian persecution can go on and on. The core of our mission at ACN is to help them.

Speaking during an ACN service last year, Neville Kyrke-Smith, National Director at ACN UK said: "Surely in this day and age, it is unacceptable that someone should be denied work, housing, liberty – or even lose their life – because of their religious belief? Yet this is what is happening in so many parts of the world.

Please join us in prayer for all those who face persecution. Get involved by supporting #RedWednesday Promise and being a #RedWednesday Champion.

REDWEDNESDAY PROMISE

I will not turn a blind eye to religious intolerance

I will use my voice to shine a light on intolerance and persecution

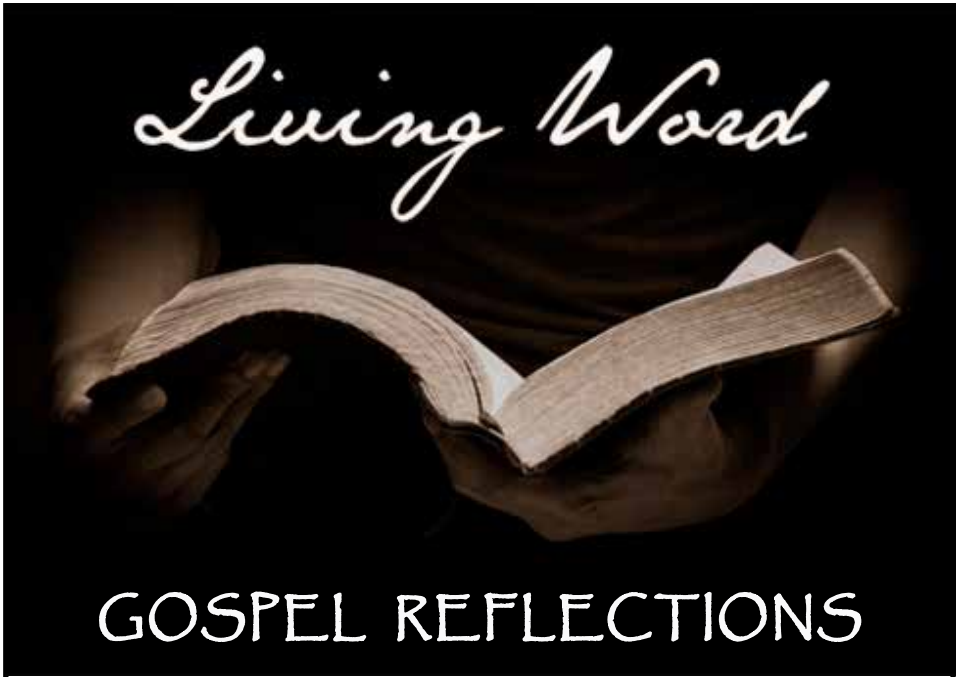
I will stand up for others right to faith and freedom



PRAYER FOR Persecuted Christians

*Lord Jesus Christ,
as the Good Shepherd,
You gave Your life for all people.
You have personally called each one of us
to serve suffering and persecuted Christians.
In them, You continue Your passion
for the redemption of the world.
It is a grace to carry the cross with them.
Grant us love, courage and a readiness to
sacrifice so that we can aid and console our
brothers and sisters in faith.
Fill us with Your merciful love for one another,
that we may also bless our enemies and
forgive them.
Thus, we want to joyfully testify
to Your presence in the world
and find fullness
of life in You.
Amen.*





Ridiculously rich

Do we know how much we have been given? We have been named as friends of Jesus, co-workers in his mission, sharers in all that he himself has been given. That makes us immeasurably, unbelievably rich ... and responsible. To take up our part, we need to realise we have been given EVERYTHING possible and that he is with us always. We desperately need to absorb this reality so that we can use our unending wealth as God intends and bear the fruit expected of such loving abundance.

Lord, help us to see what we have been given so that we can live generously.



Ready and Willing

We are invited to enter deeply into the mystery of God's superabundant goodness and kindness towards us. Paul tells us that effects of grace, won for us by Jesus' perfect obedience, far outweigh the effects of sin. The life of grace comes to us as "an abundant free gift", " a free gift we do not deserve".

But this is not an invitation to be complacent or to take grace for granted. No, like the ancient sailors, trying to make their way home

though violent storms, we are invited to "tie ourselves to the mast" of this salvation won for us. We are invited to submit our lives to this new way of living 'under grace" through deep listening and attentiveness to the action of God's grace in our lives.

Like the servants in the Gospel we are called to have the lamps of our hearts always lit, ready to to respond to the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Like the psalmist we are called to cry out joyfully "He I am Lord, I come to do your will"

Palms Australia orientation course

If you're considering working, volunteering, studying, living, or simply travelling cross-culturally, attending Palms Australia's Orientation Course will ensure your experience reaches its full potential for both yourself and your host community.

Palms Australia's 103rd Orientation will be held on January 4-12, 2020 at Hartzer Park Conference and Retreat Centre situated in Bowral in the beautiful Southern Highlands.

In 1961, Palms Australia held its first ever Pre-Departure Orientation Course for participants in Palms assignments abroad about to head into their overseas placements. Since then Palms Australia's expert-led training has become nationally renowned as an essential element of effective development assignments.

Palms Australia's close partnerships with overseas communities allow us to respond to their unique requests. We work closely with our partners to connect them with qualified and experienced Australians who commit to share their knowledge and skills while living in the communities they serve. Over the last 57 years, this has proven an effective model for achieving sustainable, community-owned development.

As importantly: *"A priceless gift a stranger can bring to a needy community is the moral gift of solidarity. Today many communities feel abandoned by the wider world or victims of terrible violence within their own country. They suffer physical, moral, and spiritual deprivation. A stranger may be an agent of incalculable good. To convince such people that the stranger would not want to be anywhere else, or with anyone else, is to begin to rehabilitate those with crushed self-esteem or verging on despair. When the stranger becomes recognizable as a friend and the host is able to embrace and be embraced, stranger and host have been transformed into a community of friends."* Anthony Gittins, from 'Ministry at the Margins'

Before you, over 1550 Australians, at 102 Orientation Courses, have been prepared to engage in these challenging cross-cultural relationships to build understanding, acceptance and care, and provide the assistance requested, across 41 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

How are you best prepared?

Every person has their own unique learning style. In order to cater for all preferences, Palms Australia's Orientation Course involves a variety of activities to suit a variety of learning styles. Various presenters will host workshops based on their area of expertise. Sessions are generally interactive and include small group activities and discussion. Simulations, field trips and meditations help participants to put concepts into action.

What is covered?

Sessions at the Orientation Course will cover various areas crucial to effectively completing an assignment, including:

- Experience from the field
- Indigenous issues
- Development dilemmas
- Mentoring and skill exchange
- Interpersonal, mental and physical health
- Cultural competency
- Language development
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In addition, Palms Australia's qualified and experienced Placement Coordinator builds on learning at the course with individual guidance that will assist you to manage personal, development and cross-cultural challenges throughout your placement.

Registration includes all meals, accommodation, staff time, facilitator costs and materials provided at the Orientation Course, as well as the provision of correspondence units, reflective material, and consultation with our placement coordinator, before and after the course.

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Peter McPhee honoured at Marist Leaders Mass

St Francis de Sales Regional College recently held their Marist Leaders Mass and honoured their College Counsellor, Peter McPhee.

The dinner was held at St Joseph's College in Hunters Hill where cherished friend and colleague Peter McPhee was recognised for his magnificent contribution over more than 40 years.

Sebastian Spina, the Principal of St Francis de Sales Regional College was privileged to read the citation in front of a large gathering of Marist educators.

Sebastian read the following:

Peter McPhee is an educator who gives witness to the work of Marcellin Champagnat.

He was educated by the Marists in Eastwood and formed in his early teaching career by the Marists at St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton. Peter always educates students

to be informed, proactive and assertive and to take action against social injustice.

Twice in the 1980's, Peter and his young family volunteered to work in Papua New Guinea where he educated young men preparing to become Priests and Brothers.

Peter McPhee remains incredibly well respected and held in the highest possible esteem by students, staff, parents and the wider Leeton, St Francis and Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga communities.

Congratulations Peter, over 42 years of service to Catholic education, and still going strong. Please join with me in acknowledging Peter McPhee.



Seb Spina (Principal) Peter McPhee, James Hopper (Boarding House Co-Ordinator), Brenda King (Ex-Principal)

Dignity in the Final Journey

Catholic Healthcare was delighted to hold its Pastoral Care Conference 2019, Dignity in the Final Journey, at the Australian Catholic University in Sydney recently.

Catholic Healthcare's Director of Mission Andrew Nee said, "Our conference, held every two years, is an opportunity for our pastoral care people and other like-minded individuals to get together and learn from each other's experiences."

"Pastoral care is an essential part of Catholic Healthcare's person-centred holistic approach. As well as helping those who are facing physical, social or emotional challenges, we explore spirituality to help people make meaning of ageing and to be treated with dignity, especially at the end of their journey."

The first keynote speaker, Rev Professor Elizabeth MacKinlay AM from Charles Sturt University, presented on *Finding Meaning in the Experience of Frailty*. MacKinlay spoke about the importance of spirituality in ageing, and how meeting spiritual needs improves mental health and wellbeing. MacKinlay stated that spirituality is the ultimate meaning mediated through relationships, the environment, religion and the arts.

With regard to frailty, MacKinlay says, "we need to think beyond the biomedical model. We need to take a holistic perspective on frailty which encompasses physical, mental, social and spiritual dimensions."

The second keynote speaker, Dr Dan Fleming from St Vincent's

Health Australia, presented on *Dignity and Ethics in End of Life Care: Considerations from Victoria's 'Voluntary Assisted Dying' Experience*. Fleming spoke about the implications of the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) laws on Catholic aged care services.

Delegates were asked to think about the excellence of care they provide and what it entails.

Fleming says, "The work of Catholic health and aged care services rests on a beautiful and courageous ethic of care, which is centred on the dignity of each

and every person. We have a long and great tradition of providing excellent end-of-life care. Our focus is to ensure that our ethic of care continues to serve those who need it. The challenge is to uphold this tradition of care and to continue advancing it."



Pictured are Andrew Nee, Director of Mission for Catholic Healthcare; Dr Dan Fleming; Rev Professor Elizabeth MacKinlay AM; Frank Clarke and Margaret Woods from Catholic Healthcare's Mission team.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph elect new Congregational Leadership Team

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart recently elected a new Congregational Leadership Team to take forward the vision and direction of the Congregation for the next six years.

Sister Monica Cavanagh has been elected to be the Congregational Leader for a second term. Sisters Josephine Dubiel, Mary Ellen O'Donoghue, Clare Conaglen and Louise Reeves, also for a second term, will be General Councillors.

The new Congregational Leadership Team was elected by a delegation of 63 Sisters from around the Congregation, during the 27th General Chapter of the Sisters of Saint Joseph held at their Spirituality Centre in Baulkham Hills from 29 September to 15 October. The Members of the Chapter considered the skills, experience and current needs of the Congregation as together they discerned the leadership for the next six years.

The new leadership team look forward to continuing the work established over the previous six years as well and implementing the new directions established at the Chapter. The new leadership team move forward in hope aware that there will be challenges to be faced and opportunities to be embraced.

During the past six years, the Congregational Leadership Team have been working with the Sisters in transitioning to establish new Regional Structures; extending our response to mission through the stream-lining of our Incorporated Works and forming a new Congregation through the journey of fusion.

Another exciting part of our leadership

has been the growth of people drawn to live the Gospel with a Josephite heart and the gifts that have come through these connections. Our key focus was to listen to the cry of children, the cry of Earth and restore human dignity to those places where humanity is diminished. The women and men who have made a commitment as Affiliates and Associates bring the Josephite spirit into a bigger sphere of influence.

Works such as Mary MacKillop Today are in a much stronger position to respond to emerging needs that face people with disadvantage today. Restoring dignity and building the capacity of local groups is central to the work of our Incorporated Works.

There has been a heightened awareness to the cry of Earth as Sisters and our ministries have made significant efforts to address the issues related to climate justice. Our sisters in their wisdom years continue to keep their mission hearts alive through many voluntary endeavours.

A special time was the celebration of our Sesquicentenary in 2016 with many events being organised around the Congregation. It was a time to celebrate the lives of our sisters and to give thanks for our Founders Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

Congregational Leader, Monica Cavanagh who was born and raised in the small rural community of Allora in Queensland, says



Sisters Monica, Josephine, Mary Ellen, Louise and Clare.

that she is humbled to be elected again and looks forward to leading the Congregation as it continues to have a significant impact in communities around the world.

"It is a great privilege and responsibility to be elected as leader. With such diverse challenges being faced across society and within the church, the role the Sisters play is more important than ever and we will be looking to ensure people can continue to rely on us for our support."

The Sisters of Saint Joseph minister

throughout Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Peru, East Timor, Scotland and Brazil. The Congregation was founded in Penola, South Australia in 1866 by St Mary MacKillop and English priest, Reverend Julian E Tenison Woods. The Sisters of Saint Joseph have Ministries that support educational endeavours, prisoner welfare, people living with disability, anti-trafficking and slavery programs, refugees, schools and young people, and indigenous people, amongst other areas.



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Sacraments at All Saints' Tumbarumba

At the end of October some people are preparing their children to dress up as ghouls and ghosts for Halloween whilst families of faith are preparing their children to celebrate the Feast of All Hallows (All Saints) as we do in the Parish of All Saints in Tumbarumba.

by **Dr. Thomas Brancik** Parish Priest

On the first Sunday in November the children of the parish, who have been diligently preparing themselves throughout the third term of school, received their First Holy Communion and those in year six the Sacrament Confirmation. It was a grand occasion. The procession entered into the Church to the strains of ‘Immaculate Mary’ accompanied by our school musicians on trumpets, flutes and clarinets. The boys looked neat in their black trousers and white shirts while the young ladies shined in their white dresses and veils. With music playing, incense rising and voiced singing truly God was praised in the assembly of his faithful that day!

During the administration of both Sacraments the children were focussed and prayerful; a day that will be remembered by all. After Holy Mass our parish children dressed up as their favourite saints and were presented to the whole parish in their chosen saint costume. Our saints ranged from St. Rocco to St. Gianna, St. Elizabeth of Hungary to St. Maximillian Kolbe. The choices of saints would have come from the familiarity with the lives of the saints to which the school children are exposed every week throughout the year. Every week there is a different ‘Saint of the Week’ and a ‘Virtue of the Week.’ From the great variety on display they must have been paying attention!

After this ‘Saints Parade’ the parish gathered for a barbeque lunch in the hall.

It was a great day for the parish: children living the life of grace and faithful men and women enjoying the ‘agape’ of God’s family which is the Church.

I would encourage all to commemorate the Feast of All Saints with great solemnity and joy so that it never becomes overshadowed by the commercialised celebration of Halloween.

May all Saints pray for us.



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NOVEMBER 2019 - **TOGETHER**

ACU’s innovative Frontier Student Evangelising Teams celebrate their third year

In early 2018, Australian Catholic University (ACU) embarked on a new Campus Ministry volunteering program for students. The goal of the program was to create faith-inspired students who would be the next generation of Catholic leaders.

Fast forward to late 2019; the innovative program has exploded in popularity across every ACU campus as it enters its third year, with close to 100 students now having participated as Frontier team members.

“The Frontier Evangelising program was launched with the intention of forming faith-inspired student teams that engage and inspire the wider student community,” said ACU Campus Ministry Manager Brother Michael Callinan.

“The students work within the Campus Ministry team at their local campus to engage the ACU student community on issues of Catholic faith and the mission of the University. The year-long program allows undergraduate students from any discipline to get involved.”

The program is streamlined into three tiers: bronze – the entry tier into the program; silver – the second-year tier for ongoing students; and gold – the final tier of the program, which is open to a handful of students who lead others within the other tiers.

“The program requires a commitment to 80 volunteer hours

‘ **The Frontier Evangelising program was launched with the intention of forming faith-inspired student teams that engage and inspire the wider student community.** ’

a year, undertaking tasks in a team environment under the direction of a Campus Ministry pastoral associate,” said Brother Michael.

“There are a wide variety of areas for the students to get involved in as part of the program, including direct evangelisation, liturgical ministries, music ministry, major event support, social media promotion and community outreach.”

ACU Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Hons) student Monica Pazniewski just joined the program. She decided to get involved after attending World Youth Day in Panama.



L to R: Brother Michael Callinan, Monica Pazniewski, Jacob Laous, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Fr Paul Nulley, Kathryn Palmer, Fr Chaminda Wanigasena

“I was amazed to learn that ACU had the Frontier Team available as an option for me to get involved with,” said Monica.

“One of the exciting things I'm looking forward to with the Frontier Program is getting mentorship from a practising Catholic physiotherapist. The mentor I've chosen is also a mum, so I'm very keen to learn how she juggles the work-faith-family balance and how she implements her Catholic faith into her everyday work”.

Each student benefits from unique opportunities once they sign up for the program:

They are linked with a Catholic professional mentor who is matched to their chosen field of study. This will help to create an industry-ready graduate who is determined to help build a better world for the future. The breadth of Catholic professionals has included several University professors,

a hospital chief executive and a High Court judge.

Each student receives individual spiritual accompaniment and formation with an ACU pastoral associate over the year. This support helps to integrate each student into a well-functioning evangelising team.

The students in the silver tier are guaranteed a fully funded place at one of two annual Catholic youth conferences each year in which they receive training in evangelisation for the University environment.

“Another bonus is that the students gain recognition within ACU’s student leadership program, Leading with Impact,” said Brother Michael.

“It all works to create the next generation of Catholic leaders, friendly faces spreading the message of the Gospel in their daily lives, on campus and beyond.”

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2019 Clergy Retreat

Priests of the Wagga Wagga Diocese attended the annual Clergy Retreat at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong. This year's retreat was led by Redemptorist Priests Fr Dominic Carrigan and Fr Tony Kelly.



Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance

With the OMG Bush Band

Date: 30 November 2019, 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.

More info: Phone (02) 6025 1784

Tickets available at the door.



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Would you like to prepare well for Christmas this year?

Join us for a one-day Silent Advent Retreat!

Saturday, 30 November 2019 9:30am to 3:30pm

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



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.



Sheppard

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Saint Cecilia

Prizes...



A huge thank you to the students from Year 1 at Holy Spirit School in Lavington for their amazing effort in creating their masterpieces for last month's issue!

Keep your eye out in the mail for a selection of these prizes heading your way for your huge effort!



We received this coloured picture of Saint Ignatius from a very talented 11 year old. Keep an eye out for a prize pack coming your way!

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:



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



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

Respect Week 2019: Building a better community

Respect Week for 2019 will be held from 16th November through to 23rd November. On Wednesday 20th 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 2019 kicks off with a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Wagga Wagga on Saturday 16th 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 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 2019

16th - 23rd November

Stop...Think... Respect

...because everyone counts.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE!

Bunnings, cnr Dobney Ave & Pearson St

Saturday 16th November, 9:00am

A Respect Awareness & South Wagga Rotary Club Initiative

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RESPECT AWARENESS www.respect.org.au

The Daily Advertiser

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INTO THE WOODS

The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

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PERFORMANCE TIMES:

Friday 22nd November – 7:00pm

Saturday 23rd November – 1:00pm and 7:00pm

All performances will be held at St John's Lutheran School Auditorium
154 Adams Street, Jindera, NSW 2642

To book your tickets go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/563844>

IGA Christmas Drought Appeal

Aussie farmers are enduring one of the harshest droughts in living memory. From 23rd October through to 29th December 2019 IGA stores across the country will be selling Drought Appeal gift tokens for \$2 each.

With IGA stores in many drought-affected communities, we see the toll it's taking every day. So please, help us support our farmers and buy a \$2 Drought Appeal gift token at your local IGA.

We are throwing our full support behind Aussie communities devastated by one of the harshest droughts in living memory. Funds raised from the IGA Drought Appeal will be used to support the amazing work of Drought Angels and Vinnies supporting Aussies in regional communities.

The drought has largely affected NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia with almost 100% of farmers in NSW living in tough conditions. Many farmers and their families are

struggling to grow their crops and are having to put down their livestock. They are struggling to pay the bills and put food on the table.

Drought Angels and Vinnies support Aussie farmers and their rural communities with meaningful and personalised assistance. They provide help in the form of financial assistance, case workers and community events. From putting fuel in the car to providing food hampers and care packs, both charities are working tirelessly so families in rural Australia can enjoy their Christmas.

Until 29th December 2019, for every token sold at participating IGA stores, Metcash Trading Limited will contribute 50% of all proceeds to each of St



Vincent de Paul Society and to Drought Angels Limited, through the IGA Community Chest Trust.

For more information and full contact details, see www.iga.com.au/droughtappeal



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Mother of Mercy Babies Home (MMBH)



The Mother of Mercy Babies Home (MMBH) is run by Sister Delphina Zoomie and the Sisters of Mary Immaculate in the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese.

With one of the highest fertility rates in the country, the average woman in the diocese is likely to bear children throughout her entire reproductive period (15-49 years). Education for girls and women has been shown to moderate high birth rates; however, more than half the women in the diocese have had no formal schooling.

With a lack of education the numbers of early pregnancies, where the mother may not be prepared to nurse a baby or may die due to birthing complications, are high in this part of Ghana. Children who lose a parent during their birth may be considered “spirit children”, and through harmful traditional practices may be abandoned or killed.

In response to this situation, the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese established the MMBH to give a home to babies at risk and look after them. When a child reaches three years of age, and if it is reasonable to do so, the sisters aim to re-home the child with their family, offering education and support to ensure a smooth transition. Those who are unable to return to their families are linked-up with the Centre for Child Development for ongoing

“ The aim is that first and foremost we want to help them be alive. Once there is life, there is hope. ”

Sr Delphina Zoom

care beyond infancy. Opened in 1984, MMBH is currently run by two sisters. It employs one manager, four caregivers, a driver and two security guards. This project helps to pay for eight staff to run the centre and care for vulnerable infants in the very early stages of their lives—children who may be orphaned, unable to be looked after, or in danger of harm. In urgent need of repairs and renovation and with a lack of funds, the MMBH and its valuable mission are at risk. Through your partnership, this two-part project will contribute to essential renovations and establishing a piggery as an ongoing source of income for MMBH.



A child in the nursery at MMBH

Part one of this project has four main activities, including:

- The construction of a new ceiling and toilets.
- Purchasing furnishings such as beds, mattresses, chairs, sheets and a television.
- Purchasing office equipment to assist in the running of the Home.
- Provision of a generator to ensure power supply in an area where electricity is unreliable and scarce.

Part two of the project has three main activities, including:

- Purchasing 15 pigs to stock the piggery.
- Purchasing food for the pigs.
- Providing funds to cover the costs of essential veterinary services.

This project aims to:

- Directly benefit 200 babies over three years, giving them a home and essential care, as well as eight staff employed to run the Home and look after the babies.
- Indirectly benefit 1,400 people in the diocese, including the families of babies cared for and the broader community. As those whose lives are saved grow into responsible adults with strong foundations, they will be able to contribute to the development of their communities.
- Provide vital care and nutrition to vulnerable children as well as support their personal and spiritual development.
- Ensure the MMBH is a safe, comfortable and caring place for the children who live there.

- Enable the training of caregivers to provide high-quality care.
- Improve the wellbeing of babies in the diocese through community education on child care.
- Establish and maintain a piggery to generate income and help MMBH to become self-reliant.

By contributing to this project through Catholic Mission, you will be helping to save the lives of innocent babies, giving them a new start and a chance for a fruitful and healthy life. With your input, the sisters at MMBH will be able to continue the important work of caring for vulnerable children in a safe and happy environment.

Supporters can make a contribution through Catholic Mission’s website
www.catholicmission.org.au



One of the caregivers in the nursery at MMBH



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St Joseph's Primary School, Culcairn

St Joseph's Primary students enjoyed their dance lessons. Big thanks to the School Council for supporting this great program!



St Joseph's School, Junee

Lots of fun was had at the St Joey's Cup and Fashions on the Field. The feature race of the day was the Teacher's Stakes, being taken out by Pratty Long Legs!



Mater Dei Catholic College, Wagga

Year 9 students at Mater Dei Catholic College enjoyed their recent PASS surfing trip.



St Mary's School, Corowa

The Year 6 Tuckshop at St Mary's School was very popular when they started serving up ice cream treats.



St Patrick's School, Albury

Fantastic artwork from Year 5 students at St Patrick's School in preparation for their Ballarat excursion to Sovereign Hill.



St Mary's Primary School, Yoogali



The students at St Mary's Primary School in Yoogali helped raise funds on Catholic Mission Day. Well done everyone.



St Brendan's Primary, Ganmain



St Brendan's Primary students enjoyed going back in time to the 1850's.



All Saints Primary, Tumbarumba



All Saints Primary have commenced their Lunch Time Summer Series with music students adding some joy to eating time. How truly special.



Xavier High School, Albury

Xavier High School had Peer Support training, preparing their students with the skills to help incoming Year 7 students achieve a smooth transition into their secondary schooling.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

not statistics to cite when boasting of our works and projects. The poor are persons to be encountered; they are lonely, young and old, to be invited to our homes to share a meal; men women and children who look for a friendly word. The poor save us because they enable us to encounter the face of Jesus Christ.

In the heart of the pilgrim People of God there beats that saving power which excludes no one and involves everyone in a real journey pilgrimage of conversion, to recognize the poor and to love them.

10. The Lord does not abandon

those who seek him and call upon his name: “He does not forget the cry of the poor” (Ps 9:12), for his ears are attentive to their voice. The hope of the poor defies deadly situations, for the poor know that they are especially loved by God, and this is stronger than any suffering or exclusion. Poverty does not deprive them of their God-given dignity; they live in the certainty that it will be fully restored to them by God himself, who is not indifferent to the lot of his lowliest sons and daughters. On the contrary, he sees their struggles and sorrows, he takes them by the hand, and he gives them strength and courage (cf. Ps 10:14).

The hope of the poor is confirmed in the certainty that their voice is heard by the Lord, that in him they will find true justice, that their hearts will be strengthened and continue to love (cf. Ps 10:17).

If the disciples of the Lord Jesus wish to be genuine evangelizers, they must sow tangible seeds of hope. I ask all Christian communities, and all those who feel impelled to offer hope and consolation to the poor, to help ensure that this World Day of the Poor will encourage more and more people to cooperate effectively so that no one will feel deprived of closeness and solidarity. May you always treasure the

words of the prophet who proclaims a different future: “For you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings” (Mal 3:20 [4:2]).



Darwin woman’s Indian roots help her channel Mother Teresa

On Pope Francis’ World Day of the Poor on Sunday, November 17, the Church in Australia is focussing on the many volunteers who work daily to help the poor in their communities. Read how Jean Robbins assists the poor in Darwin through her volunteer work with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters.

Darwin’s Jean Robbins has volunteered with the Missionaries of Charity Sisters to assist the poor in the Northern Territory since 2006.

“I am from Chennai, India and I migrated as an accountant. My childhood growing was a difficult one – we had a good mum and dad, but no resources. My desire to help is to give back to God the blessing I have received from His hands. I too suffered poverty – no food, no money, hardship,” Jean explains.

“The Lord lifted me because my mum believed that this situation will not be forever, and He is capable of raising us up.”

Jean said she constantly leans on the life and inspiration of St Teresa of Calcutta.

“I have always admired Mother Teresa who served the poor, because she saw Jesus in every person she reached out to,” Jean said.

“I volunteer on Sunday afternoons to help in feeding the poor and I also volunteer to help during events such as St Mother Teresa’s feast day, Christmas Day, and other occasions. I give the sisters a hand whenever they need help.”

That takes many forms, including preparing food, serving, cleaning and washing.

“We feed the poor and the under privileged at Vestey’s Beach. It’s a



lovely place and the people sit in groups to have a meal. The people who gather know the location – it’s been a permanent place for many, many years. They know the time and they also know they can depend on the sisters,” she said.

“We mostly help Indigenous brothers, sisters and children. We also have some non-Indigenous and backpackers who come to have a meal – they are mostly regular, but at times they are new from the islands and remote.

“There are people who look sad and quiet, sometimes mothers and toddlers make the atmosphere a little lighter, some Indigenous youngsters come and it adds a positive vibe.

“We talk to the people we serve,



(they) introduce us to their family members, bless us, they ask us to pray for them and they share their stories. Some regular ones are so happy to help, and they come forward to give a hand to set things up.”

On Sundays, the groups helps between 50 and 90, with regular visits from people who are homeless and support also offered to people from remote

islands like Bathurst, Tiwi or Groote, or from Alice Springs or Katherine, who are often visiting family in Darwin.

The Missionaries of Charity were founded in 1950 by Mother Teresa. In 2012, there were more than 4500 religious sisters worldwide.

To find out how to volunteer and help the poor in your community, contact your local parish office.

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The Ode of Remembrance

At 11:00 am on 11 November each year, people from countries around the world pause to commemorate Remembrance Day, the anniversary of the day that the fighting ended in the First World War.

Towards the conclusion of the ceremonies, after wreaths have been laid and before the sounding of the Last Post and the minute's silence, The Ode of Remembrance is read.

The Ode of Remembrance may be the most well-known part of Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is the fourth stanza of the poem For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon, who before the war had been an assistant keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum. The stanza which forms the Ode of Remembrance reads:

*They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.*

The Ode of Remembrance was selected in 1919 to accompany the unveiling of the London Cenotaph and soon passed

into common use across the British Commonwealth. In Australia it is recited on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

Written just a few weeks after the war began, For the Fallen anticipated much about the war on the Western Front – not least the vast numbers of dead and the symbolism that came to be associated with the red poppies which grew in profusion in northern France and Flanders.

For soldiers who fought on the Western Front, the Ode of Remembrance also called to mind two of the most important moments of the day in the trenches – dawn and dusk, the time of the 'standto'. This was the favoured time of attack by armies on both sides and all eyes at sunrise and sunset were focused on the enemy line.

Though it was written more than a century ago, in its remembrance of the dead and its sorrowful evocation of the future they were denied, the Ode of Remembrance remains relevant to the present day.



Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

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

But classes are growing & we need more help.

If you are able to help an hour or two a week please contact
Trevor Dal Broi 0407 537 994
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- Henty
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Caritas Australia's new CEO driven by hope for a more just world

Caritas Australia’s new CEO, Kirsty Robertson, has spoken of the renewed urgency with which we must end extreme poverty in our world today.

“People often ask, ‘Is the world we have right now the world that God intended?’ Ours is a world where we have nearly a billion people who will go to bed hungry tonight. I don’t think this is the world that God intended.” Ms Robertson said.

Caritas Australia has been working with marginalised communities for over 50 years, and in 2018-19 reached 1.52 million people worldwide in 20 countries.

For Ms Robertson, who was appointed to her role on September the 16th and was previously employed with Mary MacKillop Today, said the agency has always been part of her sense of purpose and of her hope for a more just world.

“One of the wonderful things about working with Caritas is to get to be part of the story of creating a more just world. I don’t think there’s anything more important

to do with your life than that,” she said.

“(As a child) I remember giving to a yellow Project Compassion box. The slogan said Dignity, not Charity, and that prompted a conversation with my mum about the idea that we’re made in the image of God and therefore we all have inherent dignity, which nobody can take away from you”.

“People talk about their careers, but I feel like this is my vocation and that I have a true calling to ser’ve the poor. Caritas has over 50 years of doing this work; of authentically amplifying the voice of the poor.”

Ms Robertson was liturgically blessed for her new position in a commissioning ritual on Wednesday September 25.

Chairman of Caritas Australia, Bishop Christopher Saunders, Deputy Chair, Bishop Terence Brady and Chair of the



Bishop Saunders (Broome), Kirsty Robertson (Caritas), Bishop Brady (Sydney) and Bishop Long (Parramatta)

Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, were all in attendance.

Bishop Saunders spoke of Ms Robertson’s readiness for her new role.

“Kirsty has a keen sense of social justice and a proven track record of working

to help those in our world who are disadvantaged and marginalised,” he said.

“Grounded in strong faith, she will apply herself to ensure that Caritas Australia remains dedicated to living the Gospel, which promises hope to a world in need of charity and justice”.

Pope unveils sculpture commemorating migrants and refugees

Following the celebration of Mass and the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Francis unveils a sculpture entitled “*Angels Unawares*” by Canadian artist, Timothy Schmalz, in St Peter’s Square.



“Angels Unawares” is a life-size sculpture in bronze and clay, that depicts a group of migrants and refugees from different cultural and racial backgrounds and from diverse historic periods in time.

The sculpture

The figures stand together, shoulder to shoulder, huddled on a raft. Within this diverse crowd of people, angel wings emerge from the centre, suggesting the presence of something sacred among them. In fact, the sculptural work interprets the belief that the sacred is to be found in the stranger, in this case, in refugees and migrants.

The inspiration

The inspiration behind the work is taken from a biblical passage taken from the Letter to the Hebrews: “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares”. (Hebrews 13:2)

The presence of the sculpture in St Peter’s Square is meant to commemorate the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

The artist

Canadian artist, Timothy Schmalz, has spent 25 years sculpting large-scale works in bronze. They are installed all over the world, including Rome and the Vatican.

The artist describes his creations as visual translations of the Bible. He says he tries to create epic artwork that connects with viewers through design and details that are not only touching on an emotional level, but also allow people to somehow feel “part” of the piece.



POSITION/S VACANT

If you are interested in being active in the pro-life apostolate and have hospitality experience then you may consider whether you are suited to volunteer work or if you are in the position to take on the responsibilities of management in the Esencia Cafe in Lavington.

Although up to now the role of the manager has been a full-time position we are open to creating two part-time positions if it is more suitable.

The role of the manager consists of:

Opening and closing of the Cafe (set up of food, til, seating and coffee machine) - 8.30am-3.30pm Tuesday to Friday and Saturday 8.30-2.30pm

- Customer service
- Barista
- Food preparation, and plating up, food service and cleaning up.
- Taking orders, cash and card handling
- Organisation and direction of volunteers
- Cafe supplies - maintenance and ordering
- A desire to work within a pro-life team/apostolate - an understanding of abortion and related issues
- Merchandising of stock/sales of clothing, piety and books

Please feel free pass on this information to anyone you think may be interested in applying for the position.

As we are a charitable organisation we would LOVE anyone with a pro-life heart who is happy to simply be committed Volunteers who we can rely on each week. We understand that a paid position is most likely necessary but it would help the work of the Women's Life Centre if there are generous-hearted people who can give their time and help for free.

We appreciate that we are indebted to many good souls who already volunteer and thank them for the valuable contribution. Please get in touch if you are interested, my mobile is 0427 254 809



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Pilgrimage: Depart Australia **Wednesday 6 May**
Return from Madrid, Spain on **Sunday 17 May 2020**
Cost: \$7,490.00 per person / twin share -

Optional extension to UK: Flight to UK – Norwich **Sat 16 May 2020**

Return from Heathrow UK **Thursday 21 May 2020**
Cost: \$2,350.00 per person / twin

Co-ordinator: Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm

NB: Contact Margaret Walsh pbvm for further details about the pilgrimage and for the application form and information brochure.
Email: margaretwalsh1915@gmail.com **Ph:** 02 6971 7140 0429 171 400
13 Marns St, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

The Travel Agent we deal with is Harvest Journeys and they organise the tour.

Harvest Journeys-11th Floor,
Monica Mansour Operations Manager – Private Groups
Pilgrimage: Ref No. PV8220
toll free: 1800 819 156

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tel: +61 2 9390 5460
www.harvestjourneys.com

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- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

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

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

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Mass times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

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

Albury

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

Albury - North Albury

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

Albury - Lavington

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

Albury - Thurgoona

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am, 5.30pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - 8.00am
Tuesday - 10.00am
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 7.00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)
Friday - 8.00am
Confessions
Prior to Masses
Saturday - 5.30pm-6.00pm
Sunday - 5.00pm-5.30pm
Thursday - 7.00pm following Novena
Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Berrigan

St Columba’s
4 Corcoran Street, Berrigan
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 6:00pm Saturday Vigil
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Savernake
1st Sunday - 5:00pm
Weekday Masses are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions before Saturday Vigil Masses

Coolamon

St Michael’s
Sunday - 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 7.30am

Thursday - 10.15am
Saturday - 9.00am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Confessions
1st Saturday - 5.30pm
Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

Corowa

St Mary’s Star of the Sea
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses
Refer to Parish Bulletin available in the Church or on the parish website
Confessions/ Reconciliation
Saturday - 11:00am-12:00, 5:30-6:00pm
St Pius X, Coreen,
Urana Road.
1st, 3rd Sunday - 10:45am Mass

Culcairn

St Patrick’s Culcairn
1st, 4th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd, 3rd Sunday - 10:00am
5th Sunday - Vigil Mass 6:30pm (Saturday)
Henty
2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
1st Sunday - 10:00am
3rd, 5th Sunday - 8:00am
Walla Walla
1st & 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Sunday)
Weekday Masses
Vary according to needs and are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Before each weekend Mass

Darlington Point

Oliver Plunkett
Hay Road, Darlington Point
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 6:00pm (Saturday Vigil)
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday - 8.30am - Darlington Point
St Peter’s
Cnr of Currawong Crescent and Kingfisher Avenue, Coleambally
1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sunday - 8.00am
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 8.00am Coleambally
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm - 6.00pm at Darlington Point
Confessions
15 minutes before 10.00 am Mass on Sunday or by request

Finley

St Mary’s
1 Denison Street Finley
Sunday - 10.15am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin
Confessions
Saturday - 10.30 - 11.00am

Ganmain

St. Brendan’s Ganmain
Weekend Mass Times
6:00pm (Saturday Vigil); 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday:
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
March-November 5:30pm
Sat.: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions
30 min. before every Mass each day & 5:00pm-6:00pm Sat.
St. Patrick’s Matong
Sunday - 8:00am
Confessions 30 min before Sunday Mass

Griffith

Sacred Heart
Warrambool Street, Griffith
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Saturday - 8.00am
Sunday - 7.30am, 9.00am, (Italian), 10.30am, 6.00pm

Weekday Masses
Monday - Friday - 7.00am, 5.30pm
Confessions
Friday - 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Saturday - 11.30am to 12.30pm
Marian Catholic College Chapel
185 Wakaden Street Griffith
Sunday - 9.00am

Holbrook

Our Lady of Sorrows
125 Albury Street, Holbrook
1st & 3rd Sunday - Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
2nd Sunday - 8.00 am
4th & 5th Sunday - 10.00am
Weekday Masses
Phone parish for details
Confessions
Before Mass on weekends
St Francis De Sales Church of the Pioneers
Hume Highway, Bowna
2nd Sunday - 11:30am

Howlong

St Brigid’s
Hovell St, Howlong
Church of the Good Shepherd
Queen Street, Walbundrie
Weekend Mass Times
Howlong
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Walbundrie
Sunday - 9:00am
Masses
Howlong
1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Oolong Nursing Home 10:00 am
Saturday 9.00 am - Howlong
For other Masses during the week, see the parish website.
Reconciliation
Howlong
Saturdays 9:30am (after 9:00am Mass) 5:30pm - 5:55pm
Walbundrie
Sundays 8:30am - 8:55am

Jerilderie

St Joseph’s
Coreen Street, Jerilderie
1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
2nd, 4th Sunday - 10:30am
Weekday Masses
Are announced in the Sunday bulletin

Junee

St Joseph’s
21 Kitchener Street, Junee
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday - 7:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am
Thursday - 7:00am
Friday - 9:00am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:00am; 6:00-6:15pm or by appointment
Illabo and Junee Reefs
Alternate Sundays - 8:00am

Khancoban

Church of St Joseph the Worker
Sunday - 9.00 am
Weekday Masses
9.00 am
Confessions
Prior to Sunday Mass

Leeton

St Joseph’s Leeton
Wade Avenue, Leeton
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm
Sunday - 10:00am (First Sunday of the month is Italian)
St Patrick’s Yanco
Sunday - 8:00am
Tuesday - 9:00am
Weekday Masses in Leeton
Monday - 9:00am
Tuesday (Yanco) - 9:00am
Wednesday - 9:00am

Thursday - 9:30am (Assumption Villa)
Friday - 9:15am and 5:30pm
Sacrament of Penance
Friday - 4:45-5:15pm
Saturday - 5:30-5:50pm
Eucharistic Adoration
St Joseph’s Church Leeton
Friday - 4:30pm

Lockhart

St Mary’s Church
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart
Weekend Masses
1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
2nd & 4th Sunday - 8:00am
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 9:00am & Friday - 10:00am
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.
Urangeline St Terence’s Church
Currently no Masses.

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

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

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

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

continued on page 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
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 8:00am
2nd & 4th Saturday (Vigil) - 6:00pm
Weekday Masses
Thursday - 12:30pm
Confessions Up to 5 mins before Mass.
Oaklands
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday - 10:00am

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

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



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

10th November - Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children in our culture often know very little about death, dying, and eternal life. Take this opportunity to talk with your children about their thoughts, beliefs, maybe even their fears, about death and dying.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus tells us that after we die, we will not need the same things we did when we were alive, but we will continue to have a relationship with God. You could use the example of a tree to help your children understand what Jesus tells us. When a tree is alive it needs water, soil, and sunlight. When the tree is used to make a table, a toy, or something else it has a new purpose. The tree no longer needs water, soil, or sunlight. Read together the short form of the Gospel, Luke 20:27, 34-38. Tell your children about your hope and faith in the resurrection of the body and eternal life with God. Pray together for those in your family who have died and conclude by praying today's Psalm.

2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14 Psalm 17:1,5-6,8,15
2 Thessalonians 2:16—3:5 Luke 20:27-38

17th November - Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children, while innocently naïve about most world events, are also profoundly sensitive to the concerns felt by adults. We can help children

interpret adult concerns by sharing information about current events in appropriate ways. We can also put these concerns in the light of God's kingdom and the assurance of God's care for us.

Discuss with your children one or more current events or a situation in your family which shows difficulties that may challenge our trust in a God who cares for us. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 21:5-19. Notice how Jesus said that even when his disciples are persecuted, God would be with them.

Together with your children, talk about ways in which God might bring good out of the difficult events you discussed. Talk together about some actions you might take as a family to make better the situations you discussed. Conclude by praying for the needs of the people involved in the events you named. In prayer, place each of these difficult situations into God's hands.

Malachi 3:19-20 Psalm 98:5-6,7-8,9
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19

24th November - Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Understanding today's Feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While we may not have a direct experience of kings or royalty, we have some sense of what these mean. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdom. We

know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. Christ is King in a way that is different from traditional understandings of royalty. Christ's kingship extends to all places, all people, and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the Cross, in which he offers salvation to all.

Recall with your children stories that you may have read about royalty. Talk with your children about what they have learned from these stories about what it means to be a king. Talk about what they have learned from these stories about what it means to be a subject.

Tell your children that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church Year, and on this Sunday, we celebrate a special feast called the Feast of Christ the King. Read today's Gospel, Luke 23:35-43.

Reflect together on how the various people in this Gospel respond to Jesus on the Cross. Who in this Gospel recognizes Jesus as King? (the thief) What does Jesus promise the thief as a result? (The thief will be with Jesus in paradise.)

Talk about how your family will recognize and honor Christ the King. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and ask God to help your family to act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King.

2 Samuel 5:1-3 Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5
Colossians 1:12-20 Luke 23:35-43



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.



Please consider making a donation to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.



Strength and support

Your support helps dedicated volunteers to work with people living in poverty, and provide assistance when life is tough.



Clothing and essentials

Together we can provide basic essentials such as blankets, clothes and toiletries to resolve dignity in times of need.



Food in tough times

Your donation can provide money for groceries, reducing hunger and removing a major stress for families.



Help when bills are due

You can help us provide financial support with household expenses to families who are struggling to make ends meet.



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
Im sending you a photo so you can find me this year.



HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP THIS YEAR



1.3 MILLION
PEOPLE ASSISTED



365,164
BED NIGHTS



2 MILLION
HOT MEALS

To donate visit:
www.vinnies.org.au/donate
or call **13 18 12**
or visit any local Vinnies Shop

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