



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

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Viewing life from the 'wound'

Archbishop Christopher Prowse
Apostolic Administrator
of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



Dear Friends in Christ,

In recent weeks I listened attentively and for some time to several sex abuse victims/survivors. They are courageous people. They are all at different phases of coming to terms deep within from criminal and diabolical actions perpetrated by people in the community, some of whom are committed Catholics even religious leaders. The deep wounds of abuse are not healed in some rapid manner

One of the secondary survivors coined the expression of "sitting in the wound" of all that has taken place and looking at the

reality prophetically disclosed to us by the victims and the Royal Commission have left us all with raw feelings of betrayal and disbelief. Amongst many responses, two words have become mantra words to assist us on the practical responses: transparency and accountability.

Although we have a long way to go, the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn and Diocese of Wagga Wagga have made great strides in child safety and the gradual implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission. This has all been done in a growing archdiocesan

world. Due to our Baptism we have become the people of God, the Body of Christ.

So, therefore, our long journey ahead is best described theologically as a journey of deeper conversion to Christ. It demands a leadership posture of truly listening in a humble spirit to all that the Holy Spirit is revealing to us in these troubled times. We do not seek to be a "new" Church but the Church that God has always truly willed us to be. We may wish to change all sorts of arrangements in the Church but such change may not be deep enough. That is why the word "conversion" is so rich and fundamental to all change.

Never fear, the Holy Spirit is surely with us more than ever to inspire within us our faith to respond to the grace of God prayed for and longed for in our time.

We really struggle with this statement of faith.

For example, I am still noticing in our Plenary Council discussions progressing throughout the archdiocese at present that so many of us struggle with the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" So many almost automatically respond about practical matters they feel should be happening at this time in the Church. This is an important question, but it is not THE first question of the Plenary Council. What is God doing?

Perhaps we could all learn from taking the advice of the survivor above who finds hope by "sitting in the wound". For Christians, salvation arises from sitting in the wounds of the Saviour. Only in these wounds can redeeming healing be found. St Thomas was invited to touch the wounds of Jesus. It prompted faith in him. He gave us one of the most beautiful prayers in Christianity: "My Lord and my God" (John 20/28). Let us do the same as we continue the path of conversion.

To overly spiritualise our current dilemmas in the Church is to avoid the necessary transformation of our "culture" desperately needed. However, to transfer for some other time our spiritual foundations and opt purely for the governance/corporation response will never truly change the human heart. In a TOTAL response let us walk forward together allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us out of the "Babylon" of today.

For this we pray.



TOGETHER

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Prayer Intention for October

Evangelization: The Mission of Religious

That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

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

Prayer for the month...

Open our eyes, Lord, to recognize you in the distressing disguise of the poor,
Open our ears, Lord, to hear you in the cries of the exploited and the oppressed,
Open our mouths, Lord, to serve as a voice for the victimized and the voiceless,
Open our hearts, Lord, and fill them with the love of your Eucharistic heart,
That we too may become truly present to those who are least among us,
That we too may be broken and given out to those in need,
That we too may be poured out so that others may live,
So that together with them, as members of the one Body that is yours,
We may experience more and more the joy of a life and a love wholly shared
And celebrated in the communion of the Body and Blood of Christ.
Amen.

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

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



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.

Bishop Charles Gauci ordained as the fifth Bishop of Darwin

In a ceremony rich with Catholic tradition and Aboriginal culture, the Diocese of Darwin welcomed Bishop Charles Gauci as its new shepherd.

In June, Pope Francis announced that Fr Charles Gauci, then-administrator of St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Adelaide, would succeed Bishop Eugene Hurley, who had served in Darwin for the past 11 years.

Pope Francis’ ambassador to Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, read the apostolic mandate from the Holy Father, announcing Bishop Gauci’s appointment. Bishop Hurley served as principal consecrator at an overflowing St Mary’s Star of the Sea Cathedral.

In his homily, Bishop Hurley welcomed Bishop Gauci to the Diocese, but also reminded him of the task that lies ahead. Bishop Hurley said trust between the people and the Church in Darwin has been built over more than a century.

“This is a sacred trust, well-earned, but it brings with it a grave responsibility to walk with the people as a good shepherd must,” he said.

“Our diocesan family consists of people from almost every part of the world. Many of these people, dislocated from their own culture and homeland, look to the Church for comfort and reassurance. They will look to you as their bishop for

understanding and support.” Bishop Hurley said that the special bond between the Catholic Church in the Northern Territory and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is a privilege, but there are also significant duties.

“The trust, reverence and love shown by our Aboriginal sisters and brothers over such a long time are sacred, and demand an equal commitment from the Church and from you as bishop,” he told Bishop Gauci.

“You will need to listen carefully, observe closely and walk humbly with them as you assess the situation which confronts them.

“You will find that they need your support and your voice as they search for proper housing, dignified employment and an urgent review of the heartbreaking rate of incarceration of our Aboriginal sisters and brothers, particularly the young people.”

Earlier this week, speaking with ACBC MediaBlog, Bishop Gauci spoke of his commitment to responding to those challenges, among others.

“When I visited the Indigenous people a few days ago, it was an eye-opener for me – their hopefulness, their warmth and their need to be connected spiritually,” he said.

“I think to myself, ‘I need to learn from these people’. I’m sure the Indigenous people can teach us a lot.”



Bishop Charles Gauci walking from the church after the ceremony.

Bishop Hurley said despite the geographical size of the Diocese of Darwin – more than three times the size of France – there remains a closeness.

“Even though the Diocese is vast, we have a strong and abiding sense that we are a diocesan family, united in faith and united in care and love of one another, however far apart we might be,” he said.

“This is an exciting and joyful time for all of us. Welcome to the diocese. Welcome among us as a bishop. Welcome among us as our bishop.”

At the conclusion of his ordination Mass, Bishop Gauci declared: “I am now a Territorian – and very, very glad to be here as one of you.”

He expressed his desire to

follow the example of Bishop Hurley, who has been “such a good bishop, so loved”, and in “continuing to build the Body of Christ” in the Diocese of Darwin.



Above: Bishop Eugene Hurley who had served Darwin for 11 years. Below left: Bishop Gauci is congratulated by the local community.





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So you want to be a saint?

by Sister Angelita G. Marave, MACE

I once heard a young boy say: "I want to be a saint..... but is it true that you have to be dead first, before you can become a saint?" The boy indeed is well-informed about "canonized sainthood", but it is important that he gets clarified that all baptized Christians are called to holiness or "sainthood" before one can even aspire for "Canonized sainthood."

Lumen Gentium states that the call to holiness is a universal teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. In Chapter V of "Lumen Gentium" (Light of all People), the Vatican Council II document on the Church, it states:

The followers of Christ, called by God, not in virtue of their works, but by his design and grace....have been made sons of God....and so are truly sanctified. They must therefore hold on to and perfect in their lives that sanctification which they have received from God. (n. 40)

In other words, all people, in particular the followers of Christ, *are called to be holy*, as Jesus himself constantly admonished during his life on earth: "You therefore must be perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt. 5:48)

The call to holiness is for all, but what does it really mean "to be holy"? According to what I have always tried to practise, based on Christ's teachings and the teachings of the Church, three things are important for a person to be holy. These three things are: 1) conformity to the will of God; 2) Imitation of Christ in his goodness and unconditional love for all people; 3) Using all the gifts and talents God has given us to serve God and others.

First of all, conformity to God's will means to accept with faith whatever happens in one's life. Most often, we want to control our lives. We want this, we want that to happen, and if things go wrong, we get angry at God. As long as what happens to us is according to what we want, we are pleased. But when something contrary to our expectations happens,

even if it is due to our own folly, we blame God. We lose our faith and turn to something else.

The true attitude and reaction of a holy person, or one who is always conformed to the will of God is based on Romans 8:28: *"We know that by turning everything to their good, God cooperates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose."* That means that the person is able to accept that because God has allowed such a thing to happen to him or to her, it will eventually turn to his own good. This is particularly true when something negative happens to us, such as sickness or accident. Even if we don't understand why God has allowed that thing to happen, we accept it with faith believing that for those who love God, all things work together for good. A typical example of this is Job, who at the moment of his destitution, when he lost his loved ones and possessions, could even exclaim: *"The Lord has given, the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the Lord our God!"*

The second element of sanctity or holiness is the imitation of Christ in his goodness and unconditional love of all. Christ is the best model for us to live a holy life. Like him, we must always give glory to the Father in whatever we do, and imitate his deeds of goodness, love and service to other people. Most of all, we should follow his command which is the hardest of all --- to love our enemies. He said: *"Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute you."* (Mt 5:43-44; Lk 6:27-28)



Finally, we should try to use all the talents and gifts God has given us to serve God and others. God has given each and everyone of us abilities that we can use to fulfill the mission he has given us to do: some as teachers, others as doctors, nurses, missionaries, laborers. Again, as "Lumen Gentium states:

"All Christ's faithful, whatever be the conditions, duties and circumstances of their lives.... Will manifest to all men the love with which God loved the world." (n. 41)

Vatican II's teaching on the universal call to holiness reminded the Church that all of us have the common goal of sanctity. None of the baptized are excluded from this call. "The classes and duties of life are many, but holiness is one" (*Lumen Gentium*, No 41). In the years following the council, there has been great emphasis on promoting sainthood causes for people from a variety of vocations, ages, places, social classes, etc. *"All Christ's faithful, whatever be the conditions, duties and circumstances of their lives — and indeed through all these,*

will daily increase in holiness, if they receive all things with faith from the hand of their heavenly Father and if they cooperate with the divine will. In this temporal service, they will manifest to all men the love with which God loved the world" (*Lumen Gentium*, No. 41).

When a person has lived a holy life, such as what has been described earlier, he is already "a living saint." If ever he or she dies, he can already enjoy the company of our Lord in heaven, and be a saint.

In more specific terms, St Paul gives us this counsel: *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection"* (Col 3:12-14).

When a person has lived a holy life, such as what has been described earlier, he is already

"a living saint." If ever he or she dies, he can already enjoy the company of our Lord in heaven, and be a saint.

The Church sometimes chooses to canonize such persons so as to make them models for other people to emulate. For the Church to initiate a process of

canonization, the person must have lived a heroic, virtuous life, attested by people around him or her. Or the person must have lived a life of martyrdom. The Church investigates the life of that person and follows a certain procedure before that person can become a "canonized saint."

For a person to become a canonized saint, the following process is usually followed: 1) The cause for canonization must be initiated 5 years after the death of the person; 2) A

continued on page 5...

"It's not how much we give but how much LOVE we put into giving."
— Mother Teresa

continued from page 4...



life of heroic virtue leads the person to become a “Servant of God” or be called “Venerable”; 3) A verified miracle is required to become “Beatified”; 4) A 2nd miracle, verified by the Church, leads the person to become “canonized.” (Cf. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27140646>)

In all these procedures, the

bishop, theologians, doctors, the Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and the Pope go through a thorough scrutiny.

The Holy Father can waive the period of waiting for the person to start the process of canonization. John Paul II dispensed the five-year period wait for Mother Teresa. And

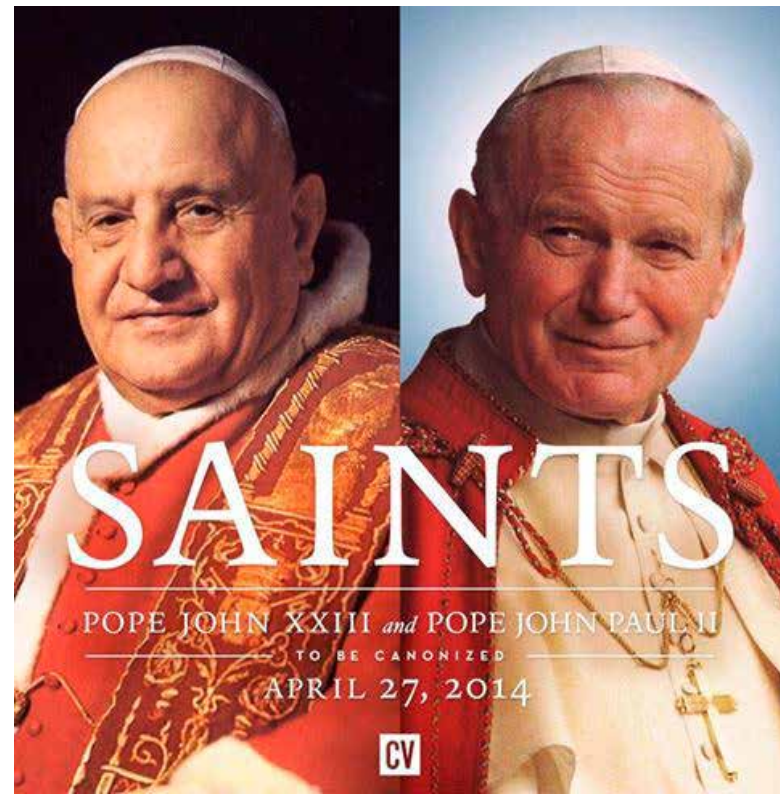
so did Pope Francis, who, because of the great public support for John XXIII, and the common belief that John Paul II was a holy man, canonized them within a short time after their death.

Worth mentioning among the saints who can inspire our young people of today are St Therese of Lisieux, whose sanctity-motto is “doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way”, and St Maria Goretti, who died a martyr’s death to preserve her purity and virginity. St Francisco and St Jacinta Marto, the children of Fatima, who were canonized this year, are fine examples of young sainthood.

As we prepare for the feast of All Saints on 1st November, let us allow ourselves to be inspired by the example of these holy men and women who were canonized for their

heroic virtuous lives. **But even if we don’t get canonized, let us continue to live a life of faith, goodness, humility, generosity, kindness and**

patience, imitating Christ at all times in his love for the Father, so that we may one day enjoy the company of all the saints in heaven.



The number one thing I’ve learned from talking with fallen-away Catholics

by Katie Warner

Originally published in The West Wagga Wag

I’ve worked for Catholics Come Home, the international media apostolate working to invite fallen-away Catholics and others home to the Church, since its founding in 1997. This has afforded me, personally, the opportunity to dialogue with hundreds of fallen-away Catholics who contact the organization after seeing a Catholics Come Home TV commercial or stumbling upon the CatholicsComeHome.org website.

Those who reach out to the apostolate via email, phone or mail make up a small but strong sample of the millions of people that Catholics Come Home has reached out to in less than a decade, and they have taught me a lot about those who leave the Church.

The messages I receive from these inactive Catholics range from cordial to scathing, and it didn’t take me long in this ministry to see that there are common threads in their conversations. Many of these people are hurting; many are angry; many are lost. All have stories; all have reasons for

leaving — reasons ranging from “I just drifted away” to “I don’t believe in these teachings” to “Someone in the Church wronged me” (with the first and the last reasons being most common).

But perhaps the most-shared feeling or expression in the many correspondences I have fielded over the years is this: Almost all of these fallen-away Catholics want to know that someone cares.

They want to know that someone cares that they left. They want to know that someone not only notices their absence, but also is actually saddened, or at least affected by it.

Sadly, many, if not most, of these inactive Catholics have never found anyone to express this concern to them.

So I make an effort to tell fallen-away Catholics who reach out to Catholics Come Home that they are missed, and their brothers and sisters in Christ — including me — want them home and that their Heavenly Father in particular wants them to again be a part of the Catholic Church that Jesus Christ founded.

As a unity in the Body of Christ, a living organism, we aren’t the same without them,

and we care that they are away.

It never ceases to amaze me how even the seemingly hardest of hearts in an initial correspondence can be turned around after hearing that someone, anyone, cares about them and about their leaving the barque of St. Peter. I’ve been moved to tears more times than I can count by people who seemed bent on spewing their rage toward the Church and have then responded to my reply with words like, “Thank you for answering. You are the first person to respond to me ... and to care.” Some of these people have admitted attempting to reach out to other people or organizations, seeking a listening ear or an extended hand of welcome, only to be further disappointed by the fact that not only did they exit the Church without a single person knowing that they had gone, but they also couldn’t find anyone to help them explore the possibility of returning.

So many of our fallen-away family, friends, co-workers, relatives, neighbors and even strangers whom God puts in our path are desperately wanting to know that they are missed. Many just need to hear it from one person — and that

one person can be you.

When you come in contact with people away from the Church, I encourage you to do two rather simple, yet important, things.

First, tell them they are missed and that you care that they are away. I used to think it sounded cheesy to say that out loud or in writing, but I discovered that it really was what so many of these people wanted to hear. I add the caveat that you must mean it. Your words, tone and demeanor must be genuine. They need real empathy.

Second, invite them home. Often, when we ask people who return to the Church, after coming across a Catholics Come Home commercial or the website, why it is that they came back, they respond,

“Because you invited me.” Don’t miss the opportunity to extend the invitation that may be the catalyst in that fallen-away Catholic’s journey back to Christ and his Church.

Pope Francis has warned of the danger of Catholics being “backseat Christians.” Don’t take a backseat when it comes to welcoming fallen-away Catholics home. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to people whom you can encourage on their faith journeys. That is certainly a prayer that God loves to answer. And when God puts that beloved, wandering child of his in your path, remember the words of the King in Matthew’s Gospel: **“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”**



Catholic Women's League General Conference held in Bendigo

by Jane Munro
General President CWL Victoria
and Wagga Wagga



Mayor Margaret O'Rourke

The Catholic Women's League's General Conference was held in Bendigo this year. The Opening Mass, held in White Hills Parish, Bendigo, was celebrated by Bishop Les Tomlinson and concelebrated by Fr Dell'Avo (Parish Priest of White Hills), Fr Harte (former Parish Priest of that Parish), Fr Ferwerda (Spiritual Director of the League in Sandhurst Diocese). Since the conference was held on the feast day of the Queenship of Mary, Bishop Tomlinson placed a wreath of flowers on the statue of our Lady of Fatima in the Church. Mayor Margaret O'Rourke officially welcomed attendees in the nearby Fr Ted Harte Hall.



Bendigo is obviously a thriving inland city, with a wide range of planned developments. Mayor O'Rourke called it a city within a forest. Growing so rapidly, the municipality infrastructure needs have to be foremost in Council plans. Speaking as a private citizen, Mayor O'Rourke also spoke about the Aspire Precinct development, which is connected with the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Set up in 2011, it aims to honour the religious history of the city. The first Guest Speaker was Phil Bretherton, Director of Mission Integration, St John of God Hospital, who gave a very informative presentation on the history of the hospital, its

founder St John of God and its various outreach programs. The St John of God website states, "The Congregation of the Sisters of St John of God was founded in Wexford, Ireland, in 1871. Inspired by the work of their patron saint, St John of God, they nursed those in poverty. Saint John of God devoted his life to alleviating human suffering, and comforted the afflicted, sick and dying in Spain in the 1500s. He was particularly passionate about combating the injustices experienced by people disadvantaged through illness or destitution. As the Congregation of the Sisters of St John of God expanded, Bishop Matthew Gibney of Perth invited the Sisters to Western Australia to help care for the sick. The first group of eight Sisters arrived in Perth in late 1895 and began visiting the sick in their homes and established a convent hospital. In 1898, the Sisters opened a convent, hospital and school in the Perth suburb of Subiaco. They established a number of schools at this time and over the following decades, hospitals in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. By the 1980s, the Sisters had nine hospitals as well as pathology and radiology services. Major changes in medical science, government policies and Catholic Church thinking at this time led the Sisters to rethink the governance and functioning of their hospitals. Recognition that



Phil Bretherton

a multi-hospital approach was needed led to the creation of St John of God Health Care Inc on 20 September 1989. All of the Sisters' services transferred to this new organisation." The outreach programs to homeless youth, young mothers, Mother and Baby Unit, community meals for those in need and scholarships are truly amazing and a credit to the hospital's enterprise and energy. The second Speaker was Dr Donna Bailey, Diocesan Archivist. It seems to me that collating and analyzing data donated to the Archive Centre is meticulous detective work with a measure of good fortune. Donna presented some fascinating work being done to uncover why some events happened. Why did more pioneers die in March than in any other month? Why were a significant number of early pioneers married and where did they come from? Although our diocese was

formed in 1874, with the Most Rev. Martin Crane OSA our first Bishop, there were five missions – in Sandhurst, Beechworth, Wangaratta, Heathcote and Echuca – already established, so our history is varied and interesting. Donna had some wonderful photographs including one of lightning striking the Cathedral in November 2017. The history of the Cathedral, from the time Dr Henry Backhaus purchased the land, through the addition of the spire, the visit by the von Trapp family, to the present all make a fascinating record. Our last Guest Speaker was Catherine Holmes from the Gianna Centre, in Bendigo. The Centre opened in 2004, in Victoria Lane, Pall Mall, near one of the doors of Myers. It is in a great location and offers a wide range of services to mothers and babies and to couples. Bishop Grech supported them financially in the beginning and this support has been on-going. Some League branches support them too and they are obviously grateful for not only the assistance, but for the recognition. The number of services the Gianna Centre offers has increased over the years. Catherine's drive and energy has not diminished in that time. If she could bottle that and sell it, they would make a fortune. Many people have contacted us to say how informative and inspiring the speakers were and how much they enjoyed hearing them. **May God bless each of our Speakers for their good works, love and commitment.**



Catherine Holmes with Dawn Shaw

Tournament of Minds

by Halle Hicks, Isla Wiseman and Hamish Morrison
Reporters for St Pat's Albury Parish School Gazette

This month sees another special report written by the talented Year 6 students at St Patrick's Primary School in Albury.



Regional Social Science Winning Team - Jo Good (Facilitator), Adelaide Hiscock, Elli Lowry, Noah Edmunds, Hamish Whiteside, Stella Biles, Sadie Wiseman and Zali Sims

Tournament of Minds (TOM) is a problem solving programme for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. The Tournament's aim is to enhance the potential of our youth by developing diverse skills, time management and the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and competitive environment. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from one of the following disciplines. The Arts, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Language Literature and Social Sciences.

St Patrick's chose the Social Science challenge to present at The Regional Tournament for the Riverina which was held at Sturt Public School, Wagga. They won this category and then represented the Riverina team at

the State Tournament. This was held in Sydney at UNSW.

In Sydney the students won honours (second). Participants Elli Lowry and Hamish Whiteside said "We put lot's in and everybody contributed as a team. Even though we are a new team we went a long way in the competition."

St Patrick's Parish School, recently started a team which consisted of students in grades 5 and 6. They 'trained' for a whole term before the first competition. Students

Hamish Whiteside, Elli Lowry, Stella Biles, Adelaide Hiscock, Noah Edmunds, Zali Sims and Sadie Wiseman, accompanied by Jo Good (Grade 5 teacher at St Patrick's) started training on Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00pm every week writing stories to challenge their brain. They even went to The Albury Escape Room to work on their creative thinking style hoping it would help them in the competition.

When the students were picked for TOM they were excited, nervous and curious but Sadie Wiseman said "I was so excited and curious. I couldn't wait to have the chance to be a creative

thinker and show people my ideas." She also felt honoured and excited "I couldn't wait," she said.

The students all said "the best part of TOM was when we found out we'd won the Regionals competition for Social Sciences and were going to Sydney to compete in the State competition. We went to UNSW for the State competition and spent 3 hours sitting with a stranger working on a word problem." They went on to say "We won and it was an awesome moment."

When I spoke to teacher Jo Good she said the best part was the learning experience for the students she said, "The best part of TOM was the spirit of TEAM. The children all brought individual strengths. As they

bonded they demonstrated their faith in each other to take on more difficult and diverse challenges. They trusted in each other's knowledge and uniqueness. Realising TEAM was so much stronger than any individual attempt. I believe TOM epitomises all the skills we need to be successful in our lives both in school and beyond!"



State Final Honours (second) - Zali Sims, Noah Edmunds, Adelaide Hiscock, Elli Lowry, Sadie Wiseman and Hamish Whiteside

Have you recently married, had a child baptised or had another significant event?

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Our Finance Team run a smooth and efficient process to ensure timely payment of invoices.

The Team will also send out monthly statements to keep you up to date with your spending and the balance remaining of your NDIS funds.

Delivery of Service

Our dedicated NDIS Officers will help you to find support and information to access services from your plan; some of these may include Family Counselling, Family

Education, and Psychological Services.

Family counselling can help support you in your relationships and assist with different issues in your life.

Family education can help with improving parent/child relationships from a range of courses and programs.

Psychological Service can provide assessment and treatment for participants with mental health problems to improve wellbeing.

Contact

Centacare’s NDIS Officers
1300 619 379 or NDIS@centacareswsw.org.au



- Family Counselling Services
- School Wellbeing Program
- Personal Helpers and Mentors Program
- Employee Assistance Program
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A Day of Prayer & Reflection
Saturday 20 October, 2018
Wagga Wagga



Theme:
Encountering St Hildegard of Bingen – A Woman of Vision and Hope

Time: 10am - 3.30pm

Venue: Nagle Room – under Mt Erin Chapel, Wagga Wagga. Entrance Edmondson St or Kildare Ave

RSVP: Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm 02 6971 7140 or email margaretwalsh1915@gmail.com

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Wagga Wagga Diocesan Catholic Schools challenged to raise funds for a school bus



The current school bus. Students of Wagga Diocesan Catholic schools are going to raise the funds to buy another one to help the children of Hakha get to St John's School

The focus for Children's Mission Month (October) this year is supporting education in Myanmar.

The month is also known as Socktober because during the month, the students are encouraged to help "Sock it to Poverty" by raising funds for Catholic Mission projects.

Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) is a country that is just beginning to recover from sixty years of cruel military rule. During the period of military rule, education was not valued.

To help redress this situation, Cardinal Bo and the bishops of Myanmar have identified education as a top priority if the country is to stand on its own two feet again. "Without education, there is no future for our country", Cardinal Bo has said.

Catholic Mission is helping build Catholic schools in various parts of the country.

One of these is in Hakha, the capital of Chin state. Chin State is a very mountainous region and

has few transportation links. It is sparsely populated and remains one of the least developed areas of Myanmar. 26% of people in Chin state have received no schooling and it has one of the lowest literacy rates in the country (76%).

St John's School in Hakha currently has over 150 children in years K and 1 and will be taking

in a new kindergarten intake next year. The school is on the edge of Hakha and the children rely on the school bus to get them there. That involves many trips for the 18 seater bus each morning and afternoon.

The school would love another bus.

Mr Heath Neville, Director of Mission at Marian College,

Griffith, has issued a challenge to all the Catholic schools in the Wagga Diocese to join Marian in achieving the goal of raising \$41,506 to buy another school bus for St John's School.

"This is something very concrete for all of our schools to work toward and achieve", Mr Neville said.

John Goonan, Wagga Diocesan

Director of Catholic Mission agrees. "This is about the amount we raise each year, so I'm sure we can do it again."

For more information about the work of Catholic Mission, contact John Goonan at waggawaggadirector@catholicmission.org.au or phone 0428970445 or visit www.catholicmission.org.au

CRA supports local faith leaders and refugee advocates mobilising a ground campaign for more humane asylum policies



Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) supports the coalition of groups meeting on 14 October 2018 to ramp up the campaign for more humane asylum policies in the New South Wales electorate of Wentworth ahead of the byelection.

CRA represents approximately 7,000 religious women and men deeply concerned at the plight of refugees and asylum seekers on off-shore islands and those in

Australia at risk of losing their only financial support.

Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, President of CRA says, "CRA is anxious for the development of a humane and supportive refugee policy. We are also mindful of the number of Catholic and religious institutions in the Wentworth electorate, including hospitals, parishes and schools, and we join in supporting the recent letter sent to constituents and the public meeting."

The meeting is an opportunity for the candidates to hear about the suffering endured by those detained on Manus Island and Nauru and the hardships thrust on those in Australia who have lost or are losing their status resolution support services, which provides a safety net for people living in the community on bridging visas.

CRA supports the chorus of voices from the AMA, the heads of churches and leading

psychiatrists, who have called on the government to remove families and children from Nauru and allow for the orderly processing and subsequent removal of the men on Manus Island.

With national attention on this by-election, the coalition of groups which has invited the candidates to the public meeting on 14 October at Waverley College at 4.30pm, may be able to persuade Prime Minister

Morrison to hear the pleas of men, women and children who are daily exposed to trauma, violence and despair.



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National Schools Rosary Day

On Thursday 24th May, St Mary's students from Kindergarten to Year 6 had the opportunity to pray a decade of the rosary in the new church rosary garden at Our Lady of Pompeii, Yoogali for the feast day of Our Lady Help of Christians.

Each class prayed a decade with Fr Peter Stojanovic, followed by a decade said outside together said as a whole school with students surrounding the garden and standing on rosary bead pavers collected from our local Murrumbidgee River. It was a very special way to celebrate Australia's patron saint and teach students about the rosary on potentially the largest rosary in the Riverina!



Thursday 27th of September was National Schools Rosary for Australia Day.

Our St Mary's community gathered together in the Parish Rosary Garden to say the rosary. It was a calm, peaceful and beautiful spring day and we dedicated this prayerful time to the Garcia Family and all those we love.

Thank you Fr Peter for organising our school's involvement in this national 'kick start' to World Rosary!

World Rosary Day is October 7th, Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary. This will be celebrated as a parish on Sunday 7th October at 10.30am in the Rosary Garden.

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as we kick start the WORLD Rosary

Asking God's blessings on Australia
October 7th, Feast of the Rosary
Eucharistic Holy Hour, 3pm - 4pm
Holy Trinity Church, Ashmont

Throughout the world, the Holy Rosary is gaining popularity with initiatives such as OZ Rosary and the next big thing the World Rosary. Excellent Catholics from all around are coming together in solidarity with the Blessed Virgin Mary and asking for God's blessing on the world.

What began in Poland one year ago in October 2017, named "Rozaniec Dogranic" (Rosary on the Border) has now country by country become a World phenomenon. Many countries have already acknowledged their participation in the Global Rosary scheduled for the approaching October 7. Australia is among the many countries already signed-up for the world experience. These include Poland, Ireland, UK, USA Central and South America, Mexico and India. Because we are around fifteen hours ahead of other countries, Australia will offer the first Hail Mary for the Global Rosary on the morning of October 7.

This year the annual Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary will be a national day of Ave Marias throughout the country. Those cities and rural regions participating can be seen at <https://ozrosary.wixsite.com/ozrosary53>

Many groups have registered on the Oz Rosary#53 Facebook site to

participate in this initiative.

The Legion of Mary, Fatima, youth, prayer and Rosary groups are coming on board right across the nation to pray the Rosary for the protection of Australia, families and youth. Major centres like Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane, Tasmania and Perth, all have multiple venues.

The West Wagga Parish will hold its own World Rosary on Sunday, October 7 at 3 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Ashmont. It will be a Holy Hour with all 20 decades of the Rosary starting every 15 minutes, interspersed with hymns and finish with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Join in at any time or complete the hour. A free 100-page devotional book will be distributed with rosaries and Rosary cards. All are welcome. **Come along to honour Our Holy Mother for the Feast of the Rosary and pray for Australia and the World.**



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OCTOBER 2018 TOGETHER



Caritas network responds to Typhoon Mangkhut

The Caritas international network is on the ground responding with emergency assistance, following the devastating impact of Typhoon Mangkhut, considered the strongest typhoon this year.

Typhoon Mangkhut (also known locally as Typhoon Ompong) made landfall in the Philippines early Saturday morning, before wreaking havoc across southern China and Hong Kong.

It estimated that over 60 people have died so far, with dozens missing, in the typhoon which had sustained winds of 205 kilometres per hour and gusts of up to 255kph. The numbers of fatalities is expected to rise. With power supplies disrupted and challenging communications, the true extent of this humanitarian emergency is only beginning to emerge.

Heavy rains and strong winds rushed through Northern Luzon and parts of Central and Southern Luzon, one of the main islands in the Philippines, further south of Cagayan. Meanwhile, storm surges of up to six metres high hit coastal areas, triggering flash floods and landslides.

Caritas Australia's Senior Programs Coordinator for Emergencies, Richard Forsythe, said the quick response and long-term disaster preparedness training within the communities has assisted many who were badly impacted by the typhoon.

"The Philippines is a country where many people are Catholic and there is a large church network," Mr



Forsythe said. "Because we are embedded in local churches, part of the social fabric of communities, we are often the first responders, able to provide food, water and shelter to those most in need."

NASSA (Caritas Philippines) and Caritas Australia's sister agency in the US, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are on the ground and part of the large Caritas international network, assessing the situation and helping to deliver essential food, such as canned goods and rice, as well as hygiene kits.

NASSA's Executive Secretary, Father Edwin Gariguez, said the strong investment in disaster risk reduction and preparedness,

helped local communities to prepare for and respond effectively to this latest natural disaster.

As part of this response, NASSA said almost 12,000 families (almost 50,000 individuals) were evacuated from Cagayan province late last week.

"The trainings and accompaniment that has taken place thanks to support from Australia and our vast international network over the years, has enabled us to be more capably prepared to respond to this latest Typhoon."

The region of flood-prone rice plains and mountain provinces has a history of deadly landslides. Father Gariguez added in the coming days the priority would be to provide food and hygiene kits to communities impacted, given there had been significant damage to agriculture including rice, corn, vegetable, banana and other crops.

Matt Mc Garry, CRS's country representative said; "We have stocks of emergency relief materials pre-positioned outside of Manila and have set up a system that allows us to transfer cash to disaster-affected families through



private financial service providers in the immediate aftermath of the disaster."

Meanwhile, there are concerns that the possibility of floods may exacerbate the likelihood of waterborne disease, an eventuality which Caritas staff are also preparing for.

The Caritas network will remain in the Philippines before, during and after the typhoon. Rapid Assessment Teams have been deployed and an operations centre has been established.

Caritas Australia is the lead agency of the CAN DO consortium, (Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations), members of which are currently conducting needs assessments.

CAN DO is a member of the Australian Humanitarian

Partnership between the Australian Government and some of Australia's leading international development NGOs. The AHP has a strategic focus on Pacific preparedness and resilience work, in particular building the capacity of local organisations across the region to manage disasters more effectively.

Australians who wish to support the people of the Philippines at this time can do so by donating to Caritas Australia's Asia Emergency Appeal
<https://www.caritas.org.au/asia>



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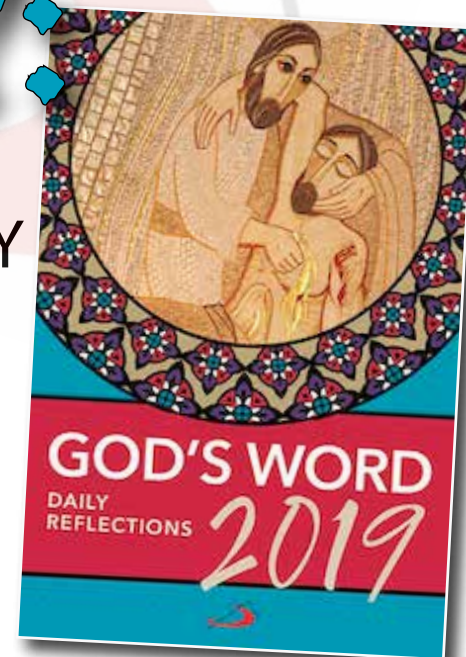
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Proof NSW Government slowed funding to its government schools



Funding analysis prepared for the NSW Teachers Federation shows the NSW Government has been underfunding its own government schools, Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) said today.

The study - by education analyst Adam Rorris - concludes that the NSW government school system this year received \$470 million less from the NSW Government than is needed to meet the state's share of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS), the benchmark used to fund every student in Australia.

"This shortfall follows the so-called Gonski funding agreement signed by the NSW Government with then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard in 2013," CSNSW Chief Executive Dallas McInerney said.



is the real reason the state's government schools today receive less than the SRS," Mr McInerney said.

"Adrian Piccoli was Education Minister while NSW slowed its funding growth for government schools to less than 3% per year - well below the SRS growth rate of 3.6%.

"As the majority funder of its government schools, the NSW Government should have increased its funding by at least 3.6% per year. Had it done so, NSW government schools

Recurrent funding of NSW government schools, 2013 to 2016

Year	Commonwealth Government		NSW Government		Schooling Resource Standard
	\$/student	Growth	\$/student	Growth	
2013	\$2,068		\$9,733		
2014	\$2,108	2.0%	\$9,951	2.2%	3.6%
2015	\$2,255	7.0%	\$10,100	1.5%	3.6%
2016	\$2,408	6.8%	\$10,394	2.9%	3.6%
Total growth		16.4%		6.8%	11.2%

Source: ACARA MySchool dataset

"The NSW Education Minister at the time was Adrian Piccoli - now with the University of NSW's Gonski Institute for Education.

"During Mr Piccoli's tenure as Minister, funding growth for NSW public schools slowed to 6.8% over three years while the Federal Government increased its contribution by 16.4% over the same period.

"This is a blatant exercise in cost-shifting by the NSW Government and

would have had some \$330 million extra in 2016 and much more today.

"We call on his successor, Rob Stokes, to properly fund NSW's government schools and to sign the agreement with the Commonwealth - the majority funder of non-government schools - to allow additional funds to flow for his state's low-fee non-government schools."

Catholic Schools NSW represents the state's 595 Catholic schools and their 255,000 students.

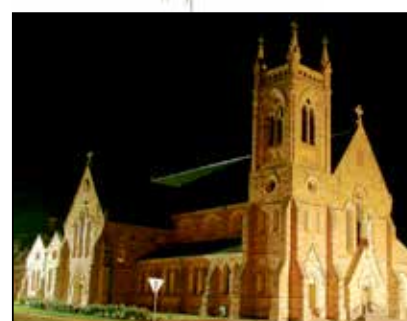
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Advent approaches, and so does Christ

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

Christmas decorations are out already, and some super organised people are already done with their gift list. Meanwhile, I'm still working out who I can afford to buy for this year.

Advent is nearly upon us, and that means Christmas is really not far off at all.

This time of year is always a bit humorous. On the one side, sentimentally I start picturing Christmas day, lights on a tree, family church, delicious food, loved ones company, hot chocolate and snow covered rooftops.... And oops. Then I remember, I haven't had that childhood white Christmas in so many years. I have a giggle to myself and remember my Christmas is still filled with loved ones, and delicious food, Mass with my church family and lights on a tree. As that imagery fades another takes over. The consistent imagery across time zones and continents

'the very reason for the season' the birth of Christ.

Then it hits, like a tonne of bricks. 'AH! Advent is almost here, Christmas will be here, New year will be here and I am not ready'.

I need to pause, and take stock, **now is the time** to get ready.

And you can too.

The days will keep ticking over, and Christmas will be here, there is no stopping that, so take some time today to write down a to do list. What do you need to do to get ready for Christmas? Have you and your family decided who is hosting? Who will bring what? How many people? How are you all doing presents? Are you doing presents?

Now, what about mentally and emotionally? Ask yourself the following questions: What kind of strain does this usually put on you? Are you up for that? How will you manage that? Who will you turn to if/when you need?

Now, the one question that often gets left behind – Why do I celebrate Christmas?

Is it simply a day for families

to come together, binge on good food and drinks for a few days, as a final hurra for the year? Or does Christmas mean something more?

Christmas is meant to remind us of family, yes, but because of love. It's meant to be more than a mere sentiment of gifts, Santa and party. A party yes, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, Happy Birthday indeed. But why, are we all celebrating His birthday? What does his coming on earth mean for us all, and 'what does it mean for me personally?'

You might not have grappled with that question yet; not everyone will have. For many Christmas is a tradition, and it's just what you do. You go through the motions.

But you need to push past the traditions, the obligations to the core of Christmas: what does Jesus' birth mean for me personally?

For us at Virtue Ministry; it's the celebration of the birth of love himself. Of a Heavenly father that loved us so much that he chose to become like us, to be born just like us, living like us, knowing the good and the bad and to show us what our humanity is capable of anyway; what each of us is capable of when we **open our hearts to Christ**. The capacity of human love. Showing us who we really are and who we are meant to be.

The lead up to Advent and Christmas is the best time to prepare for that reality. Letting that reality move us, and change us into who were capable of being.

Advent is just around the corner... the time to get ready to welcome Christ into our hearts anew, is now.






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Caritas responds following devastating earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi

The Caritas international network, part of one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world, is responding with emergency assistance, following a powerful earthquake that rocked central Sulawesi, Indonesia on Friday.

The magnitude 7.7 quake struck just off the coast of Donggala in Central Sulawesi, triggering an unexpected tsunami, which devastated the city of Palu, leaving a trail of destruction in its path. Caritas Australia's partners, Caritas Indonesia/Karina and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are on the ground.

Caritas Australia's Senior Programs Co-ordinator for Emergencies, Richard Forsythe, says the disaster destroyed homes and businesses in Palu and also affected remote parts of Sulawesi.

"We are concerned that

emergency teams have not yet reached all impacted areas, where there are no communications, and so the extent of the damage and lives lost isn't yet known," Mr Forsythe said.

"Strong aftershocks have also continued to hit the city of Palu, making it hard for residents struggling in the aftermath of such a devastating quake. At Caritas Australia we want to express our solidarity with the people of Indonesia, they are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time."

Catholic Relief Services' country manager in Indonesia, Yenni Suryani said the images coming out of Palu are "horrific" and bring back memories of the devastation caused by the region's 2004 earthquake and tsunami.

"One of the lessons we learned from that disaster is that it will take time to learn the full scope of destruction," Ms Suryani

said.

"The government is to be commended for their immediate response and the work they are doing to get information out quickly. Knowing that time is of the essence, our partners are racing to overcome extreme logistical challenges to get to the scene as fast as possible."

Ms Suryani added that with the airport damaged, getting access to Palu and Donggala has been problematic.

"Responders and local aid groups are having to drive overland for 10 to 12 hours. This means a bottleneck for relief supplies in coming days," she said. "Those long hours on the road are going to mean hours lost in getting assistance to people who need it in the next few days. Another option will be sea routes. The Ministry of Transportation is sending in relief by ship from North Sulawesi."

CRS's local partners Caritas Makassar and Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Centre (MDMC) are en route to Donggala and Palu in Sulawesi. Caritas Indonesia - Karina continues to monitor the situation and has established a coordination meeting with the Commission for Socio-Economic Development of Manado Diocese and Makassar Archdiocese. Both dioceses are very close to the affected area.

"I'm worried about people

who might have been washed away. Several mosques, a shopping mall and many houses have collapsed. The impact is significant, and as soon as our local partners reach affected areas and establish communication we'll know more about the extent of the destruction and people's most urgent needs," Ms Suryani said.

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The interesting and unusual picture on the cover of the handbook and tessera was created by Hubert McGoldrick, a young Dublin stained-glass artist in the early days of the Legion's history. It is unique in that it presents a visual file or compendium of the *spirit, purpose, theology* and *devotion* of the Legion of Mary within the confines of a single painting.

Spirit

First to catch the eye is the domination of the dove – symbol of the Holy Spirit – hovering over the entire scene and overshadowing the Blessed Virgin, recalling the Annunciation and Pentecost, and emphasizing Mary as the instrument of the Holy Spirit to bring Christ to the world through her Legion. Then we see Our Lady as a pillar of fire, enveloped by the flaming Spirit of God, with her halo his color of red, guiding and protecting the Church and her legionaries towards intimate union with Christ and the promised land of heaven. This recalls the pillar of fire of the Old Testament, which guided and protected the chosen People of God toward the Promised Land. And below, at her feet, not easily noticed, are very fine and precise lines of red, symbolizing grace

radiating towards her faithful legionaries.

Purpose

Surrounding Our Lady are the sister and brother legionaries holding the two great symbols of love and sanctity: the crucifix and the rosary. St. Louis de Montfort said that there will be legionaries of the latter times who would have the names of Jesus and Mary on their lips, and a crucifix and rosary in their hands – their weapons in the war against evil as they struggle for holiness in themselves and in the world. And notice that these legionaries – “in battle array” – in orderly, unified lines going back as far as the eye can see and representing all Active and Auxiliary members on earth and in eternity – *are following Our Lady to victory*, holding high the Legion banner, and the Vexillum, the Legion Standard which encapsulates the Legion's full motive and mission: to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit through Mary, and to work for them as they seek to conquer the world.

Theology

The border forming a frame for the full picture features three quotations from the Bible. Leading down into the bottom left corner are the words *Beata Quae Credidit* meaning *Blessed is she who believed*, a quotation

Inside the Legion of Mary – On Legionary Things

The Legion Picture

by Father Francis J. Peffley

from Elizabeth who said, “Mary, blessed are you who believed what God revealed to you would be fulfilled.” Along the bottom and up the side is seen *Muliere Ecce Filius Tuus – Ecce Mater Tua*, the Savior's words to his mother and St. John from the cross: “Woman behold your son, son behold your Mother.” The final quotation from Scripture, running up the left border across and down the right hand side translates as “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head.*” Mary, as the woman of Faith, whose consent to the angel's proposition made redemption possible; Mary, as spiritual mother of the Mystical Body of Christ; and Mary, the woman of prophecy, who, co-redeeming with her divine Son from the very beginning, is the same Mary of the Legion, whose legionaries she mobilizes and trains to “strike” and crush the ancient head of evil.

Devotion

Above Our Lady's head are the Latin words *Magnificat Anima Mea Dominum*, “My soul magnifies the Lord,” the opening words of the Catena, the “chain” of prayer which links all legionaries to each other and to Our Lady, and which is depicted by the design of red links of chain around the border. The words show that Our Lady not only does not interfere in or obscure the way to Christ, but magnifies him and is the light on the way to him. A close look at our Lady's forehead will reveal a star, a reminder that she is “Star of the Sea” and the “Morning Star,” guiding wandering souls to Christ and brightening the way of those groping in darkness. Our Lady with her arms extended as on the Miraculous Medal shows her to be the Mediatrix of all Grace, and her stepping on the serpent shows that she is the new Eve, destined to crush the head of that serpent. The first Eve said no to God – the new Eve said yes to God; the first Eve was tricked into sin by the serpent, but the new Eve crushes sin

with the serpent under her feet, as she stands on the dark globe of the world.

In contrast to the orderly red lines of grace on the upper side of the globe, the irregular, disordered black lines below the globe show the influence of evil on mankind. Underneath the writhing serpent with its angry, hateful head we see some of the devil's armed legionaries, in

and beauty of God's world and to attempt to put himself in God's place by trying to turn everything upside down. So by turning the Legion picture upside down, we see the way the devil would like things to be: there is the mockery of the Mass, with the chalice and the host, with Satan in the place of Christ, radiating his evil on sinful humanity and making

It is unique in that it presents a visual file or compendium of the *spirit, purpose, theology* and *devotion* of the Legion of Mary within the confines of a single painting.

unmatched uniforms, mingled with a confused collection of souls, those people living “in darkness and in the shadow of death,” the ones the legionaries are marching forward to save. In the background is seen blue, the color of dawn, the color representing Our Lady coming forth as the morning rising, for she was the herald of the dawn of Salvation, bringing Christ into the world.

The final way of looking at the Legion picture is to look at it as the devil would. We know that the enemy's intention is always to distort the truth, goodness

immobile the Legion, Our Lady and the Holy Spirit!

Our Lady has shown her legionaries the beauty and grandeur of the Legion through this inspired picture with its warning that the enemy is ever present. **Looking at this icon of her Legion, knowing it to be an inspired composite of all that the Legion is known to be, may her legionaries forever find themselves in that ordered and unified line of Our Lady's loyal and courageous ones, ever marching victorious over evil and into Eternal Life.**



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National Council of Priests Convention *Being Catholic in Australia Today*

by Fr Bernie Thomas

Priests from throughout Australia gathered in Canberra in mid September for the bi-annual National Council of priests Convention.

This year, the theme was *Being Catholic in Australia Today – After the Royal Commission and before the*

Plenary Council 2020.

The first full day took up the findings of the Royal Commission through the input of Robert Fitzgerald AM, Gerardine Taylor Robinson and +Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFMConv.

Robert Fitzgerald was a commissioner on the Royal Commission into institutional Responses to Child Sexual

Abuse and brought with him great experience into the Catholic Church's handling of child sexual abuse. A practising Catholic, he spoke of the many factors which give rise to institutional abuse and said that institutional response was part of the problem.

Gerardine Taylor Robinson is a clinical psychologist and an expert consultant, especially

to groups and organisations whose members are struggling with psychological and related issues and she themed her input with 'hurt people hurt people' and 'If nothing changes, nothing changes'. She said that a 'theology of sexuality that leads to self-hate, to ridicule and to secrecy and shame needs to change'. She stressed the need for a 'national, professional protocol for the assessment of students for the priesthood'.

Bishop Vincent said the time has come to change the culture of the church – to jettison the clerical church and to adopt a church of the People of God, of the Baptised. He said it is not to be new wine in old wine skins, but new wine in new skins.

Irene Sutherland and Julian Wellspring took the priests on a journey of IT and new technology and how that technology can be of great advantage in parishes and dioceses.

Next day, Fr. Noel Connelly SSC and Lara Turvey-Collins spoke about the importance,

procedures and direction of the Plenary Council before people had some free time or toured the War Memorial and being with Paddy Sykes and James Clarke in spirit as they laid a wreath on behalf of the members of the N.C.P.

Next day, Fr. Frank Brennan SJ AO shared his findings and responses to the Royal Commission with his usual depth and insightfulness before there was a plenary session to try and bring together what was shared on the three days. The conference also gave Concerned Catholics Canberra a short time to address the conference.

The conference ended with the General meeting of the National Council of Priests, the Conference Mass and the Conference Dinner.

The conference was organised by Fr. Paddy Sykes of Wagga in consultation with a group of Canberra-Goulburn priests. Fr. Paddy chaired the conference very professionally.



Pictured: Frs. Paddy Sykes, Bernie Thomas, Doug George, Joel Wallace, Anto Chiriyankandathuil, John McGrath and Paul Hart at the NCP Convention in Canberra.

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A Light Unknown

He's little known among Catholics outside New Zealand, but some consider this handsome young priest to be a contender for their country's first official saint.

by Peter McCleave

Francis Vernon Douglas is a name largely unrecognised in Australia. He was born in New Zealand, of an Australian father and Sligo mother.

He was part of a large Catholic family that, like many before and during the Great Depression, struggled to survive.

He finished school at 14 in 1924, and in 1925 began work with the Post and Telegraph Department as a messenger boy. He subsequently entered the-then National Seminary, Holy Cross, at Mosgiel – a cold and isolated, but picturesque, town on the Taieri Plains of the original Otago Province in the lower South Island of New Zealand.

Douglas was ordained priest at St Joseph's Church, Buckle Street, Wellington, on 29 October 1934 by Archbishop Thomas O'Shea. His eldest brother had already entered religious life by joining the Marist Brothers, and an elder sister was a nun at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Rose Bay, Sydney.

Following ordination, he worked as a curate in several parishes, but his aspirations lay elsewhere.

From 1933, when two of its priests had visited New Zealand and an open letter appealing for recruits had been distributed, Douglas had felt drawn to St Columban's Foreign Mission Society – popularly known as the Columbans.

The congregation had been founded a mere 17 years earlier in Ireland in 1916 to evangelise China. In 1936 Douglas went to Australia to join them and train for a year at their seminary in Melbourne.

On completion he was posted to the Philippines and worked in a remote area some distance from Manila.

As a result of the Japanese invasion of China in 1937 the Columbans began posting missionaries elsewhere in Asia.

Late in 1938 Douglas was appointed to Pililla, a fishing town near Manila in the Philippines.

Conditions were harsh, and he struggled to combat religious indifference among his parishioners, for the most part nominal Catholics.

His difficulties increased after the Japanese occupied Manila in January 1942. The Japanese onslaught was initially intense and the Philippines was quickly overrun.

Still, the conquerors were, at first, half-heartedly tolerant of the expatriate Christian missionaries who stayed at their posts.

But they became less patient after the Allied counter-attack on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in August 1942.

As opposition slowly built up, local groups acted as guerrilla units against the occupying Japanese, who treated the conquered with little if any regard. Starvation, torture and execution became common.

As the war progressed and the Japanese themselves came under threat, the atrocities increased, together with their suspicions of the non-native occupants.

Douglas reluctantly obeyed the restrictive rules imposed by the Japanese until July 1943.

In that year, he felt obliged to visit some American guerrillas in the nearby mountains who claimed to need his priestly services.

To his anger he discovered that they merely wanted fresh company; he had been a victim of what proved to be a tragic hoax.

The trip aroused suspicions that he was spying for the resistance forces, and on 24 July 1943 Japanese soldiers took Douglas from Pililla to Paete to interrogate him.

Unwilling to divulge confidences or to break the seal of the confessional, he refused to answer questions. For three days he was tortured and beaten, then on 27 July he was taken away. He

was never seen again. A Captain Shikioka subsequently charged with mistreating Douglas was never apprehended.

This is where, for me, the story becomes personal.

His last parish appointment before the Columbans was to St Joseph's in New Plymouth, NZ. St Joseph's occupied an amazing site in the town. On a high land mass at the top end of the town was the weatherboard church, church hall, presbytery and large convent.

Usually in early Australia and NZ, the prime site was where the Church of England stood (note Hobart) but here it was different. However one does not distract from the fine beauty of the historic Anglican Church of St Mary in New Plymouth (now a Cathedral), which is worth a visit.

Sadly the old Catholic church buildings have now gone, replaced by what some call modern architecture.

At St Joseph's, Father Douglas was curate to the incumbent Father Minogue. Vernon, as he was and still is commonly known, was responsible for the Boy Scouts: St Joseph's Scout Group. My father was Vernon's scout master and closely associated with him and Father Minogue.

The death of Vernon was extremely felt in New Plymouth, especially among the Catholic community. His torture whilst tied to a baptistery was a horror.

I learned of this from my father soon after the end of the War. Other Catholics knew it



A portrait of the young Fr Vernon Douglas, above, who went on to join the Columbans and was tortured to death in the Philippines for refusing to break the seal of the confessional. The young missionary can be seen with Filipino altar servers, at right.



as well and came to regard it as an example of the meaning of holding office as a Catholic priest.

At this time and distance, so much is unknown - especially where the body of Fr Vernon Douglas now lies.

The prospect of launching Vernon's cause for beatification and canonisation has arisen among New Zealand Catholics from time to time but it awaits more intense interest and awareness.

In 1959 his name was given to a new boys' secondary school at New Plymouth, Francis Douglas Memorial College, and thus

serves as an ongoing expression of what he stood for and did.

Further information exists for those who seek more details. A reprint book on his life will be issued this year.

Peter McCleave is a Retired Medical Practitioner and Administrator. This article includes information from NZ Government sources.

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Support for Royal Commission into Aged Care

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) supports Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s call for a Royal Commission into aged care so that the future of care for Australia’s elderly can be properly and independently addressed.

CHA members share the community’s expectation for quality and compassionate care for all our older Australians and commend the commitment made to improving their future through this much needed examination and national conversation.

Chief executive of CHA, Suzanne Greenwood, said the

Royal Commission should be used as an opportunity to ensure that the aged care system is fit-for-purpose for the care of older Australians.

“This Royal Commission should not be used as an excuse to ‘down tools’ on progressing the significant reforms to improve the aged care system that are already underway or recommended in recent reports.

“These reforms stem from the Tune Report and the Carnell Paterson Report, and focus on improving quality regulation, increasing informed consumer choice and control of services, and securing the resourcing

of the ever-burgeoning need for aged care services,” Ms Greenwood said.

Currently the prospects for older Australians needing quality aged care services are uncertain with no federal funding plan that will cater for the projected 2 million aged 85+ Australians by 2055.

“If the terms of reference are properly targeted, this Royal Commission could be a defining moment in aged care. CHA welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Terms of Reference, and to contribute to the Royal Commission.”



Scott Morrison visiting an aged care facility. He has called for a Royal Commission into the standard and delivery of aged care services.

CHA members are 100% not-for profit providers serving more than 1 in 10 older Australians accessing aged care services.



MCC Transition Program



Session Three of our MCC Transition Program with the Year 6 students of St Mary’s Yoogali, St Patrick’s Griffith and students from the local public schools occurred this week. The session focused on the significance of Pastoral Care, Wellbeing and Spirituality and Faith Formation at the College. The Year 6 students were also introduced to the members of the Community Action Team and the Well-being Committee. The Community Action Team

and the Well-being Committee’s roles and responsibilities were explained, and furthermore, the Year 6 students were told how they can engage and become involved in the opportunities both teams will facilitate in 2019 at Marian Catholic College.

Teachers, Mrs Lora Segrave, Mr James Moore, Mrs Louisa Patten, Mr Heath Neville and Mrs Belinda Aventi, presented two one-hour sessions, exploring authentic experiences of collaborative activities and workshops on the

following areas:

- Changing friendship groups
- Transition to high school
- Social media
- Becoming a teenager
- Confidence
- Bullying, harassment and peer pressure
- The power of prayer
- Shield of faith
- Our Marian – Our Faith
- Live the Marian Way – Sing our Song
- Spiritual Bingo

Feedback from the Year 6 students during the reflection activity at the end of the session indicated that they all had an enjoyable learning experience where they were able to start forming new friendships with students from the different primary schools.

The Year 6 students will be returning to MCC for the Fourth Session of the Transition Program in the first week of Term Four.





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

Vinnies launches appeal for drought-afflicted NSW

With 99% of New South Wales affected by drought, the St Vincent de Paul Society NSW launched its appeal to raise funds for rural communities in need.

"We're witnessing first-hand the devastation this continual dry is having," said Vinnies' Executive Officer for NSW's central west and far western region, Kelly Morgan. "People are really doing it tough out here. Many are investing all they've got in feed and other supplies to keep their farms going. As a result, they're often struggling to keep up with regular bills, including groceries and even household water."

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, NSW's 2018 winter rainfall was well below average, meaning farmers who have already suffered years of drought have had no respite. Over the last 15 months, several areas have had the lowest rainfall on record.

Ms. Morgan continued: "Vinnies members are part of these struggling rural communities and know what farmers are facing. My husband and I, for example, have been hand-feeding our own livestock, and without rain in the next few weeks we will need to cart feed in. There are so many farmers



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doing it far far worse than us, and it's been incredible to see communities pulling together during this emergency to help where they can."

One such story is that of local Vinnies member, Michael Lynch, who has visited 30 remote farms over the last week to offer assistance through Vinnies. "People like Michael are doing great work," remarked Ms. Morgan. "Farmers affected by the drought know they are not alone."

The Vinnies Drought Appeal will help individuals and communities across NSW in three ways:

- Provide immediate relief through food assistance and other household bill payments;
- Fund the delivery of water and animal

feed by partner organisations; and

- Organise social events for rural communities to come together and find support.

Vinnies NSW Chief Executive Officer Jack de Groot said: "The State government has acted swiftly by injecting \$1 billion towards drought relief for farmers, with \$500 million of that announced just this week.

"These communities will need support in the coming months and years as the impacts of the drought are felt," he added, "Vinnies members and volunteers will provide assistance by doing what they always do – quietly supporting their neighbours through the harshest of times. Your donations will help them keep doing that in the long term."

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Archbishop Comensoli to help draft final Synod document

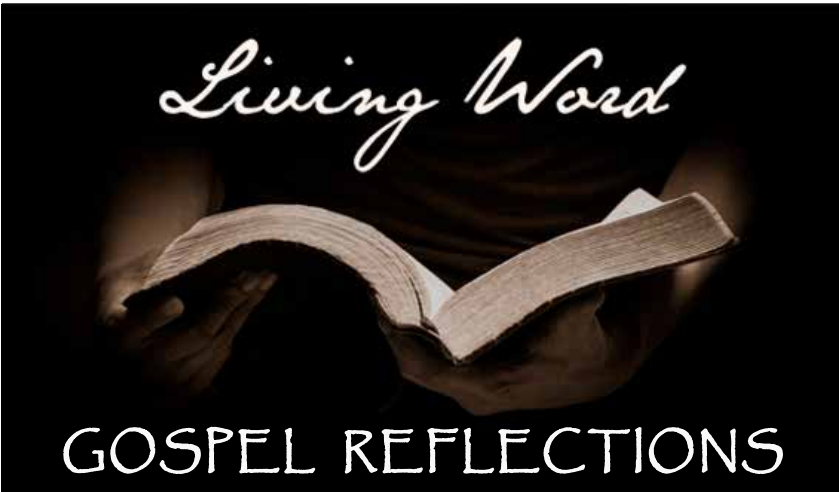


Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli has been appointed to the commission responsible for drafting the final document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Source: Vatican News.

Archbishop Comensoli was among the five prelates elected by region and chosen by a vote within the synod hall to draft the final document. He joins Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes, Archbishop of Mexico City, Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Mumbai and Archbishop Bruno Forte of Chieti, Italy. In his intervention yesterday, Archbishop Comensoli said perhaps “a pebble of spiritual disruption” needs to be dropped into the “stagnant pools” where the Church’s enthusiasm for the Gospel and for mission have been allowed to wane, CNS reports.

“Our task is to rediscover a young Church that goes out, not to re-create a Church for the young to come to,” Archbishop Comensoli said. The archbishop described the massive figure of Jesus in the Sistine Chapel fresco of the Last Judgment as “glowing with vitality and beautiful to behold. And he is gloriously young.” “Our Redeemer is young because he is alive,” the archbishop said. In the same way, the church – his body – is meant to be young and alive, just as it was in the early days after Pentecost. “Pentecost set off a Gospel fire in the disciples, anointing them and sending them out

into the world,” he said. “The disciples did not wait for people to come to them; they got up and went out.” Archbishop Comensoli urged the bishops to make an examination of conscience, asking themselves if they truly act like successors of the apostles, going out into the world with the Gospel like the Acts of the Apostles describes. “Or have we stagnated in the Spirit, lost our missionary fire and become beholden to a ‘fake gospel’ of religious maintenance?” he asked. “It is time to leave behind a Church that only sits around waiting,” he told his fellow bishops.



St. John Bosco is arguably the most successful saint in youth ministry in the brief history of the Church. He was born in Italy in 1815 and died in 1888. 100,000 people attended his funeral. His father died when he was just a boy. He used this experience, and his naturally joyful and fun-loving personality, to become a gentle, yet firm father to the young – especially those in grave difficulty. He used to say to young people: “Two things in life are essential. One, stay in the state of grace. Two, enjoy life as much as you can.”

Let’s take the second part of his advice first. The story is told of a little African boy who was attending catechesis in his local parish. The catechist asked, “Who made the world?” He answered, “God made the world.” Next question, “Why did God make the world?” Response, “God thought we’d enjoy it!”

The world is full of goodness and beauty and it evokes love and delight. We Christians profess this explicitly in our Creed. Other believers share a similar attitude. Agnostics and atheists, too, can surprise us with their reverential attitude to the created world and its innate goodness. Life is meant to be enjoyed. We are called to delight in the Creator’s magnanimous gift. Remarkably, a similar openness to Jesus is displayed by those who are not disciples:

“John said to Jesus, ‘Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.’ But Jesus said, ‘You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us’” (Mark 9:38-39).

We are left in no doubt. Those who are *not one of us* can discern the goodness of Christ. There is goodness everywhere, outside the confines of the Christian community, too. We are called to “see” this. It would be arrogant to think otherwise. The gift of faith expands, rather than contracts, our horizon.

What about the first part of Bosco’s advice? It also challenges, no doubt.

It is good to “see” that we find happiness *indirectly*. That is to say, we have to eliminate all those things that will not bring happiness.

Think of the modern forms of darkness: gossip, pornography, violence, theft, abuse of drugs, excessive alcohol, manipulation of the truth through modern media, infidelity, dishonesty, etc. In short, anything that contradicts the fundamental values of the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes. If we can eliminate these behaviours – and the attitudes that motivate and accompany them – we are on the *path* to happiness.

This is Bosco’s point: stay in the state of grace – avoid grave sin.

Again, the Gospel expands our horizon. Just as our pursuit of happiness will affect others, so too our personal life of sin will have ramifications beyond our own orbit:

“But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck” (Mark 9:42).

Jesus is speaking about scandal. It is “an attitude or behaviour which leads another to do evil” (CCC 2284). Interestingly enough, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC 2286) mentions four professions who should be wary of scandal: public and civic figures, business leaders, teachers, media personnel.

Doesn’t all this seem relevant? Think *Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry*. Think *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. Think the behaviour of some of our politicians. Think *Sex Ed* programs in some schools. Think of the manipulators of public opinion in and through the various media forms.

Indeed, Bosco’s advice retains all the power and relevance for our young people today and for those who are entrusted with their care and education. It is a call, undoubtedly, to deepen our understanding of the importance of the Christian community.

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by Scott P. Richert

Catholicism 101:

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

As the central sacrament of Last Rites, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was, in the past, most commonly administered to the dying, for the remission of sins, spiritual strength, and the recovery of physical health. In modern times, however, its use has been expanded to all who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation. In broadening the use of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church has stressed a secondary effect of the sacrament: to help a person recover his health. Like Confession and Holy Communion, the other sacraments commonly performed in Last Rites, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be

repeated as often as is necessary.

Other Names for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is often simply referred to as the Sacrament of the Sick. In the past, it was commonly called Extreme Unction.

Unction means an anointing with oil (which is part of the sacrament), and extreme refers to the fact that the sacrament was usually administered in extremity—in other words when the person receiving it was in grave danger of dying.

Biblical Roots

The modern, expanded celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick recalls the early Christian use, going

back to biblical times. When Christ sent His disciples out to preach, “they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them” (Mark 6:13). James 5:14-15 ties physical healing to the forgiveness of sins:

Is any man sick among you? Let him bring in the priests of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick man: and the Lord shall raise him up: and if he be in sins, they shall be forgiven him.

Who May Receive the Sacrament?

Following this biblical understanding, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (para. 1514) notes that:

The Anointing of the Sick “is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age,

the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived.”

When in doubt, priests should err on the side of caution and provide the sacrament to the faithful who request it.

The Form of the Sacrament

The essential rite of the sacrament consists in the priest (or multiple priests, in the case of the Eastern Churches) laying hands on the sick, anointing him with blessed oil (usually olive oil blessed by a bishop, but in an emergency, any vegetable oil will suffice), and praying “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”

When circumstances permit, the Church recommends that the sacrament take place during Mass, or at least that it be preceded by Confession and followed by Holy Communion.

The Minister of the Sacrament

Only priests (including bishops) can administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, since, when the sacrament was instituted during Christ’s sending out of His disciples, it was confined to the men who would become the original bishops of the Church.

The Effects of the Sacrament

Received in faith and in a state of grace, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick provides the recipient with a number of graces, including the fortitude to resist temptation in the face of death, when he is weakest; a union with the Passion of Christ, which makes his suffering holy; and the grace to prepare for death, so that he may meet God in hope rather than in fear. If the recipient was not able to receive the Sacrament of Confession, Anointing also provides forgiveness of sins. And, if it will aid in the salvation of his soul, the Anointing of the Sick may restore the recipient’s health.

Confirmation

Over the first weekend in September, Year 6 students from St Patrick’s Primary School in Griffith made their Confirmation at the Sacred Heart Church. All three Masses were a success and much of

this was made possible by the overwhelming support and presence of our St Patrick’s staff at each of the masses. Furthermore, we would like to thank our Year 6 teachers, Miss Loretta Zannotto, Mrs Sarah Dunbar and Mr Peter Moraschi for the time and

effort given to preparing the candidates. It is also important to acknowledge Mr Sam Rizzeri, Mrs Nilva Close and Mrs Belinda Aveni for the beautiful music. In the absence of a Bishop, we would especially like to thank Father Andrew Grace

for leading us and the altar servers for their involvement in each Mass. Each candidate displayed reverence and contributed in some way to assist in the running of the Mass they were a part of.



Holy Communion



First Holy Communion was held at St Michael's Parish in Coolamon on Sunday 16 September celebrated by Fr George.



Holy Communion was celebrated by the students of St Joseph's Primary School in Wagga Wagga on Saturday 8 September at St Michael's Cathedral celebrated by Fr O'Reilly.



Holy Communion was celebrated by the students of Holy Trinity Primary School in Wagga Wagga on Saturday 8 September at the San Isidore Church celebrated by Fr Casanova.

Kids corner

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard



St. Ignatius of Loyola was born in Spain. He was a soldier in the Spanish Army in wars against the French.

After the military he studied the saints and decided to be a soldier of the Catholic faith. He finished his degree at age 43. Along with St. Francis Xavier and seven other students, started The Society of Jesus, or Jesuits in 1534.

He died at the age of 65

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Saint Ignatius of Loyola



Craft...

Saints and Objects Matching Game



This is a fun All Saints' Day game for all ages to enjoy! It is also so easy to assemble.

We used:

- black foam board
- string for hanging the objects
- "s" hooks
- colour pictures of the saints-we specifically chose images of the saints that did not show their objects, to make the game a little more challenging
- objects associated with each of the saints
- pictures of these objects

How to make:

- We attached the pictures with narrow strips of cardstock folded in half, gluing one half to the picture and the other to the board, creating a "hinge." Be sure to glue your cardstock to the very top of the back of your pictures so that the pictures can be flipped up to reveal the image on the back of each saint picture. This image on the back will match the object for that saint.
- Below each picture, we poked small holes and slipped an s-hook in each hole for hanging objects.
- Use a little string or ribbon and hot glue to create loops on your objects for hanging.

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!



OCTOBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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



- St. **Therese** of the Child Jesus
- Guardian **Angels**
- St. **Francis** of Assisi
- St. **Bruno**
- Our Lady of the **Rosary**
- St. **John** XXIII
- St. **Callistus** I
- St. **Teresa** of Avila
- St. **Ignatius** of Loyola
- St. **Luke**
- St. **Paul** of the Cross
- St. **John Paul** II
- St. John of **Capistrano**
- St. Anthony **Claret**
- St. **Simon**
- St. **Jude**

Adelaide to host World Youth Day

The Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults (COYYA) in the Archdiocese of Adelaide is excited to announce World Youth Day Adelaide 2019, a celebration for young people ages 16 to 35.

Following a week of activities across the archdiocese, the celebration will culminate in a festival on Sunday 27 January 2019 at Sacred Heart College Senior Campus. While the international World Youth Day will be occurring in Panama, the Adelaide celebration will provide young people with an opportunity to participate locally.

WYD Adelaide 2019 is set to be the most significant gathering of young people in the Archdiocese since Adelaide hosted the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) in 2015. The program will feature over 35 musical acts across two live music stages, workshops, speaker panels, food trucks, amusements and a youth-led liturgy.

Headliners for the festival day include Gospo Collective featuring Charmaine Jones; the hosts of Jesuitical, a podcast

for young Catholics (USA); and Genevieve Bryant. Gospo Collective combine secular and sacred music and have performed to sell-out crowds at the Adelaide Fringe Festival (*Gospolation*, 2017, and *Jackson Vs Jackson*, 2018). Jesuitical is a weekly podcast from *America Magazine* (USA), hosted by three young editors, Ashley McKinless, Olga Segura and Zac Davis, and will be recording a live episode at World Youth Day Adelaide 2019. Genevieve Bryant is a Melbourne-based musician who has performed at World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland, as well as at all three ACYFs.

COYYA Coordinator Peter Bierer shared his excitement for the event.

"I'm excited to be able to offer young people in the Archdiocese of Adelaide a chance to come together and explore faith while having a good time," he said.

The celebration will also feature workshop topics including mental health, music, leadership, media, the environment and social justice. These topics were

recently identified by young people in local and national surveys as areas of significance.

"The program our team has developed for WYD is in direct response to listening with young people over the last couple of years. We've heard from young people which issues and topics are important to them, that they are looking for community, a place to belong, and a Church that listens to and responds to them," said Mr Bierer.

COYYA is awarding grants to parishes and communities to host youth events across the archdiocese in the week leading up to the festival day (20-25 January). COYYA will also provide diocesan-wide events, such as a young adult pilgrimage to Sevenhill Winery and Jesuit retreat centre and a 'Theology on Tap'-style event with the hosts of Jesuitical. Information regarding these events will be available at www.cathyouthadelaide.org.au/wyd.

Mr Bierer is encouraging young people to save the date and book their tickets now.



27.01.2019
WORLD YOUTH DAY
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE
SACRED HEART COLLEGE • SOMERTON PARK

THE LARGEST GATHERING OF CATHOLIC YOUTH IN ADELAIDE SINCE ACYF 2015!

OVER 35 MUSICAL PERFORMANCES ON TWO STAGES
INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL PRESENTERS AND SPEAKERS
FOOD TRUCKS, RIDES AND AMUSEMENTS
YOUTH-LED MASS AND PRAYER EXPERIENCES
WORKSHOPS, SPEAKER PANELS AND
MORE DETAILS RELEASED WEEKLY IN SEPTEMBER!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT CATHYOUTHADELAIDE.ORG.AU

Find more info at www.cathyouthadelaide.org.au
Or call (08)8301 6866 @cathyouthadelaide



"If you come to WYD Adelaide, you're going to have a good time. Maybe you'll make some new friends and connect with God at some level. My hope is that you come away from WYD with something that affects you

at a personal level and stays with you for a while," he said.

Tickets and further information are available at www.cathyouthadelaide.org.au/wyd

How are you relating?

The focus:

My parents divorced. And for a while I wondered what God thought about it – especially because of this passage.

But Jesus isn't condemning divorced people here. He's raising important questions about relationships.

First, do we give up too easily on them? We live in a culture that doesn't like pain. Too often people break off relationships instead of working through problems that come up. It hurts to forgive. It's humbling to say, 'I'm sorry'. But we never learn how to love and be loved unless we work on relationships – even when it hurts.

Second, are we willing to give of ourselves in our relationships? We live in a culture that breeds selfishness.

Too often people break off relationships because they don't get what they want

from them. But relationships are two-way streets. And the strongest and happiest ones feature two people willing to sacrifice for each other.

Finally, do we support or weaken relationships? As Jesus says, people shouldn't interfere with healthy relationships, because God is their source. It's our job to help people build their relationships and keep them healthy. So don't let jealousy spark you to interfere with friends who are dating. Watch out for misplaced loyalty that urges you to help a friend be dishonest with parents, a boyfriend, or a girlfriend. Celebrate your parents' anniversary with them. If your mum or dad is single, offer support if he or she starts dating.

Don't take this passage simplistically. Sometimes, even though we would wish otherwise, there are parents who cannot live together any longer. Instead, let this

passage challenge how you commit to relationships and how you support those you love in their relationships.

The music connection:

'I Won't Give Up' by Jason Mraz. Jesus' words about divorce can be difficult to understand for those of us who have experienced divorce in our families. As we explore what this means to us today, we know that Jesus' teachings always lead to love and compassion for each other, even those who are struggling in the relationships. 'I Won't Give Up' is about the commitment it takes to keep a relationship strong in the face of forces that can break it apart.

Where do you struggle in building relationships? How have you supported others' relationships?




WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA 2019

GPBS TOUR
Catering for small groups and individuals!

22-27 JANUARY 2019 [Full Tour 16 - 31 January 2019]

I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word. LK 1:38

INCLUDING the pre World Youth Day "*Days in the Diocese*" (Central America) & post World Youth Day retreat (United States).

Join the **GPBS** tour of Panama for the official WYD celebrations! Experience the warm hospitality of the Panamanian people and their amazing expression of Christian hospitality, deep tradition and spiritual heritage. It will also be a time of cultural exchange, dialogue, worship and celebrations with the youth of the world and Pope Francis. Represent your community at WYD and join the **GPBS** group going to Panama.

Package includes return economy airfare Australia – Panama City – Australia, quality accommodation, WYD registration, WYD transportation in Panama City, bonus tours, majority of meals, transfers, plus a variety of other inclusions.

Contact GPBS TODAY for more information and to secure a place on this wonderful tour.

Tour Leader: Paul Skippen
M: 0412 850 883
E: info@gpbs.com.au

minna
travel & cruise

Marian Catholic College, Griffith



Students have been holding a Farmers Market every Friday to raise funds to help those suffering from the drought. Each year group is getting the chance to conduct this market each Friday. The students have been outstanding with their efforts and once again actions of discipleship that we can all follow. In awareness alone we are making a huge difference and all students and teachers involved so far should be very proud.



St Francis De Sales College, Leeton



On September 28 St Francis De Sales Regional put on a “strawberry theme” end of term 3 morning tea as a show of support to the strawberry farmers. A berry good time was had by all!!!

St Patrick’s Primary School, Holbrook



St Patrick’s Primary School, Holbrook had a food stand at the Henty Machinery Field Days. Thank you to all who volunteered their time!



Holy Spirit Primary, Lavington



In September Holy Spirit’s Primary School Stage 3 went on an excursion to Beechworth. These are some photos of them panning for gold near Woolshed Falls and visiting Beechworth Gaol.



St Joseph’s Primary, Culcairn



St Joseph’s Primary School, Culcairn’s amazing students display at the recent Culcairn Show! **We’re so very proud of each and every one of them!!**

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TOGETHER**

e: info@www.catholic.edu.au
t: 02 6937 0000



All schools enrolling now for 2019



MELBOURNE CUP RACE DAY @ ALBURY RACECOURSE \$40 per head

Includes Entry and Lunch in Designated Corporate Area
Tuesday 6th November

IGA Lockhart and Albury are sponsoring a fundraiser to raise much needed funds for St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies).

On Tuesday 6 November at the Albury Racecourse IGA will be putting on a lunch in a designated corporate area for only \$40 per head including entry.

The Melbourne Cup is a huge day on the Albury racing calendar and IGA are hoping to sell as many tickets as possible so they can support Vinnies in their drought and other appeals for Albury and the surrounding region.

**RSVP by Tuesday 30th
October
to Bob 0429 205 608
or Helen on 0427 295 217**

Come and have a great day at the races and support the fantastic work that Vinnies do for our Albury & surrounding areas.

**RSVP by Tuesday 30th October
to Bob 0429 205 608
or Helen on 0427 295 217**

Teacher of the month: Jesse Chant

Each month, Together, asks a different teacher from within our Diocese about their background and role as a teacher.

Name / background / years teaching:

Jesse Chant is a teacher at St Francis de Sales Regional College. St Francis School is Day and Weekly Boarding School providing a comprehensive education across Years 7-12, for students from Leeton, Narrandera and surrounding rural areas in the Riverina.

He has been teaching for a couple of years. He currently teaches Science and IST (Information and Software Technology) but is preparing to teach iSTEM (integrated Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) and the new Technology Mandatory courses next year.

Where did you grow up?
I was born in Narrandera and

grew up in Leeton. Like my last 2 generations of ancestors, I have kept it fairly local.

Why did you become a teacher?
I enjoyed helping others as a student and could see the missed learning opportunities which could engage students and relate subjects to the real world, so I thought I would give it a crack.

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

I completed my first university practicum at St Francis which I quite enjoyed. When a position was advertised, I did not hesitate to apply.

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

The highlights of my role as a teacher include working with our amazing students while supporting them in their growth as human beings in a difficult time of their

lives.
What are some of the challenges in your role as a teacher?
I see two major challenges facing most teachers, myself included:

1. As front line workers dealing directly with other people, we are exposed to hurt and suffering that many of our students experience while recognising that we cannot solve or help with many of their problems.
2. The activities which take us from our primary role as an educator and support figure for our students.

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

I have been lucky to experience a variety of professional learning opportunities this year, ranging from the invaluable advice and mentoring from many of my excellent colleagues to technical courses on 3D modeling and manufacturing

and creating IoT (Internet of Things) enabled devices. I also attended the Early Career Teachers workshop.
What do you hope to achieve in your role as a teacher?


I hope to support students while teaching both life and subject specific skills. In doing so I aim to increase the number of students going to work in STEM fields as they are the foundation of the modern economy and a key future area of employment.

How would your students describe you?

Below are extracts from a recent student feedback form:
“Mr chant offers us with a great learning environment, he is friendly and is good for making learning fun, he provides us with knowledge and even life lessons”
“He keeps his lessons fun and engaging!”
“Listens to everyone”



Jesse Chant



Catholic Education

Diocese of Wagga Wagga

“Mr Chant is a pretty COOL teacher yo :)”

10 OCT

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Make your #MentalHealthPromise at 1010.ORG.AU

'Living Prophetically in Daily Life'

Learning to Hear the Voice of God

Presented by ~
Anne Brereton; Tasmania, Anne Marie Gatenby; Perth

St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton
Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre:

October 26th, 27th & 28th ~ 2018
Friday 26th, 7pm ~ 9pm.
Saturday 27th, 9:30am ~ 5:00pm Saturday Evening 7pm ~ 9pm
Sunday 28th, 9:30am ~ 3:15pm

Please bring a shared lunch and afternoon tea

Cost \$60 or Donation kindly appreciated for the weekend

CCR Annual Conference ~

RSVP:
Contact: Brigita Hore; 0412042196
E: brigitajh@bigpond.com
mjreqan68@bigpond.com
for Billeting: fkernaqhan@hotmail.com

 Hosted by Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal

ACU named the most energy efficient Australian university

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is the most energy efficient Australian university according to the annual Benchmark Survey of the Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association (TEFMA).
ACU's energy efficiency outperformed that of more than 35 other universities across the country in the report released by TEFMA this past week.
TEFMA is an independent association of facilities managers operating in the tertiary education sector of Australia and has some 1,000 members representing 88 tertiary education institutions and eight affiliated associations.
The report outlined the overall facilities-management performance of ACU against other Australian tertiary providers, including a number of categories that directly measure sustainability, such as greenhouse gas emissions, waste management, water conservation and energy use.
ACU's National Sustainability Manager Mark Doggett said the results relate directly to the mission

of ACU as a Catholic University as it draws from the Church's long history of social justice teaching, including Pope Francis's Encyclical Laudato Si (Our Common Home), which identifies how "inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace" (Laudato Si; No.10).
"ACU strives to be a role model for responsible environmental corporate citizenship within Australia and abroad," Mr Doggett said.
"In line with its Mission, the University also recognises its responsibility to conserve our natural environment, not least because it is the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most from environmental degradation."
The TEFMA report showed:
• On two key measures of energy efficiency – energy use per floor space and energy use per full time staff and student – ACU led the University sector, with energy efficiency about double the sector's average;
• ACU has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions per full-time student

of any Australian university, with 60 per cent lower greenhouse emissions per full-time student;
• ACU has the third lowest water consumption per full-time student, recording consumption rates less than half the sector's average.
The categories of data that compose the report are focused on the operation, maintenance and construction of facilities.
ACU uses the report to assess how its facilities management performance compares to that of other universities, and also to assess how it performs on key sustainability measures, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, waste management, compared to other universities.
The majority of Australian universities and TAFEs are members of TEFMA and participate in the benchmark report.
The survey is undertaken in the first quarter of the year, and gathers data for the previous calendar year.



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Rosary in the Park

10:00am - 3:00pm,
Saturday 13 October 2018
Victory Memorial Gardens

Contact:
Caronne Vella 0413 801 616





Another incident of violence against a Christian woman in Pakistan

Binish Paul is 18 years old and a Christian. She attends public school in Pakistan. On 22 August, a young Muslim by the name of Taheer Abbas threw her from the second storey roof because she had refused to marry him and convert to Islam. This is another example of violence being used to force conversion, explained Binish Paul's solicitor Tabassum Yousaf in an interview with the

"They also received serious threats from the family of the perpetrator. If the case were not closed, then they would all be accused of blasphemy," Tabassum Yousaf, who is also a Christian, said. Fortunately, the solicitor filed the charges directly with the court so that the hospital was forced to provide a medical report. This made it possible to arrest the man on 24 August.

"In Pakistan, it is difficult to receive justice if you are a member of a religious minority," Yousaf said.

pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN).

"For months, Taheer had been putting pressure on Binish to convert to Islam. Over and over again, she refused. This culminated in the violent act, during which the young woman sustained severe fractures to her legs and spine." As is often the case in such incidents, this places the family of the young Christian woman in a difficult position. The parents turned to the local police, but the officers declined to file charges. Moreover, the director of the hospital refused to issue the medical report necessary to document the injuries.

"When similar attacks happen in our church community, the main problem is that the Christians in Pakistan often belong to the poorest social groups and are not aware of their rights. For example, hardly anyone knows that you can file charges with the courts. The refusal of the police to open a case, together with threats from the relatives and friends of the perpetrators, ensure that many families do not even report the crimes they have suffered." Therefore, there are many incidents of young Christian women being forced to convert that never become public knowledge.



National Marian Shrine in Mariamabad, one of Pakistan's oldest Catholic settlements. Located about 80 km from Punjab's capital of Lahore.

Photographer: Johannes Klaus. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

"When I was studying law, I was also pressured by a young Muslim, a friend of mine. Fortunately, my family and my brothers protected me. Young Christian women who come from simple circumstances, however, are powerless against their attackers." According to Yousaf, each year, 15 to 30 cases similar to that experienced by Binish occur in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi alone. In comparison, the number of times these incidents are reported to the police can be

counted on one hand. "Many people are afraid because the Muslim community threatens to rape or kill the women of these families."

"In Pakistan, it is difficult to receive justice if you are a member of a religious minority," Yousaf said. The judges are under pressure from the political parties. "They do not offer our brothers and sisters in faith adequate and fair legal assistance. Many members of minority groups are not even aware that they have the same rights as Muslims. As a Catholic solicitor, I consider it important that they have access to more information in this area and receive legal assistance. I am rendering this service for God and my church."

Prayer Points:

*We pray for interfaith understanding and respect.
We pray for those forced to convert against their will.
We pray for justice for the victims of violence.
Lord hear us.*

Lord graciously hear us.

For more information or to make a donation to help Aid to the Church in Need, please phone

1800 101 201 or e-mail: info@aidtochurch.org

Or write to:

**Aid to the Church in Need
PO Box 7246**

Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Online donations can be made:

www.aidtochurch.org/together



A Eucharistic procession in Pakistan / Faisalabad where Christians are often targeted and persecuted for their faith. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.



A mosque behind barbed wire in Lahore, Pakistan. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

Mass times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

Our Lady of Fatima
Bourke Street, Wagga Wagga
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 5:30pm (Syro-Malabar Rite)
St Patrick’s Uranquinty
Sunday - 8:30am
Weekday Masses - Our Lady of Fatima
Wednesday - 7:00am
Thursday - 11:00am (Ethel Forrest Centre)
Friday - 5:45pm
Anointing Mass
Marian Foyer, Henschke Hall
4th Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Weekday Masses - Calvary Hospital
Monday-Friday - 8:00am (except public holidays)
Aged Care Facility Masses
Forrest Centre
Every Thursday - 11:00am
Nan Roberts Nursing Home
- The Haven
3rd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
RSL Remembrance Village
2nd Tuesday of the month - 10:30am
Confessions
Saturday - 10:30-11:30am

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

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

Albury

St Patrick’s
515 Smollett St, Albury
Weekend Mass Times
Saturday - 9:30am
Vigil (Saturday) - 5:00pm
Sunday - 8.00am, 10.00am, and 5:30pm
Latin Mass - Sunday 12 noon
Weekday Mass Times
Monday to Friday - 7:00am
Tuesday & Thursday - 9:30am
Latin Mass Mondays - 7pm in the Adoration Chapel
First Friday - 5:30pm
Rosary before Mass
Saturday - 9.10am and 4.30pm
Sunday - 7.40am and 9.40am

Albury - North Albury

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

Albury - Lavington

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

Albury - Thurgoona

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

Berrigan

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

Coolamon

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

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

Corowa

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

Culcairn

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

Darlington Point

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

Finley

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

Ganmain

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

Griffith

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

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

Holbrook

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

Howlong

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

Jerilderie

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

Junee

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

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

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

Lockhart

St Mary’s Church
55 Ferrier St, Lockhart
Weekend Masses
Saturday (Vigil) - 7:00pm
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.
Urangeline
St Terence’s Church
Currently no Masses.

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

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

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

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

continued on page 31...

Tumbarumba

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

Urana

St Fiacre's Church
5 End St, Urana
Weekend Masses
Saturday (Vigil) - 5.30pm
Confessions
Up to 5 minutes before Mass.
Oaklands
Currently no Masses.

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii
17 Edon Street, Yoogali
Sunday - 9.30am
St Anthony's - Hanwood
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am
St Therese's - Yenda
Saturday Vigil - 6.30pm
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 5.30pm - Yoogali
Wednesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda
Friday - 9.30am - Yoogali
Confessions
Yenda - Thursday, before Mass
Yoogali - Sunday, before Mass
Hanwood - Saturday - 4.30pm
Or by arrangement with the priest.

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



Wagga Wagga Deanery

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

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

Murray Deanery

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

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

Murrumbidgee Deanery

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

Immaculate Heart of Mary Youth Group
Where: Thurgoona Parish Centre
When: Every 2nd Wednesday 5.30pm-7pm. Dinner provided.
Who for: School Years 7 to 12 (high school)
Contact: (02) 6043 2222

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

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

1 October 1952	Mgr Thomas Ignatius Barry
3 October 1962	Fr J Bede McDonell
6 October 1974	Fr John Patrick Hanrahan
11 October 1939	Bishop Joseph Wilfrid Dwyer
18 October 1982	Mgr John Harold Larkins
24 October 1924	Fr Francis William Hartigan

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

Apologies:

In the August and September issue we didn't publish the names of the following priests. Please pray for them this month:

4th August 2012	Fr Patrick O'Connell
22nd August 2014	Mgr William Fulton
29th August 2012	Fr Francis Clune
31st August 2013	Most Rev William Brennan
9th September 1883	Fr Patrick Bermingham



INTERNATIONAL DAY for the ERADICATION of POVERTY 17 OCTOBER



From the Missal: October

7th October - Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

One body. As we hear Jesus proclaim the basic oneness of husband and wife in marriage, a oneness with which no human agency, not even the law of Moses, can interfere, we rejoice in the many couples who have grown closer together through the ups and downs of their married life. We also have compassion for those that have experienced the trauma and distress of a marriage break-up. May all find support and guidance through the Church community.

Gen 2:18-24	Two in one flesh
Ps 127	Walk in God's ways
Heb 2:9-11	Crowned with glory
Mk 10:2-16	Question about divorce

14th October - Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who can be saved? In Jesus' time people saw wealth and prosperity as signs of God's blessing. Today we can still covet these thing. We can embrace the message of our consumerist society that happiness lies in having more. The wise person knows that the greatest richness of all is the saving love of God in Christ Jesus, and it is ours for free. If our primary attachment is to Jesus, we will not covet material goods but use them as necessary.
Wis 7:7-11 Wisdom praised

Ps 89:12-17	Shortness of life
Heb 4:12-13	God's word alive
Mk 10:17-30	Treasure in heaven

21st October - Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A servant leadership. Some people use their authority to oppress others and win glory for themselves. They make their authority felt. Good leaders exercise their authority lightly, using it to help people live and work together. In today's Gospel Jesus describes his authority in terms of service and self-sacrifice: he 'came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.' How do we exercise authority within our family, workplace, society and Church?

Isa 53:10-11	Life in atonement
Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22	God is our help
Heb 4:14-16	Do not let go of faith
Mk 10:35-45	Favour not mine to grant

28th October - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I want to see! In today's Gospel only the blind man, Bartimaeus, can see who Jesus really is - the Messiah, the Son of David. To the others in the crowd he is only Jesus, the good man from Nazareth. At times it can be hard for us to see Christ in the midst of the sights and



sounds of our world. May the Lord open our eyes to recognise him in the breaking of the bread and to see his footprints in our lives. Then, with Bartimaeus, may we joyfully follow him along the road.

Jer 31:7-9	I will comfort them
Ps 125	Like a dream
Heb 5:1-6	A priest for ever
Mk 10:46-52	Have pity on me

Former atheist and political leader, Bill Hayden baptised at age 85

by Mark Bowling

Journalist - The Catholic Leader

One of Australia's iconic Labor leaders and former Governor General Bill Hayden has been baptised as a Catholic at the age of 85, and after a lifetime as a declared atheist.

"There's been a gnawing pain in my heart and soul about what is the meaning of life. What's my role in it?" Mr Hayden said.

Now in declining health, the former federal opposition leader and foreign minister said he hoped his new-found faith might encourage others as the Church passes through difficult times.

"This took too long, and now I am going to be devoted.

"From this day forward I'm going to vouch for God," Mr Hayden told The Catholic Leader as he prepared to be welcomed into the Church at St Mary's Church, Ipswich, west of Brisbane, on September 9.

He suffered a stroke in 2014, and as he prepared for the baptism celebrated by Fr Peter Dillon, Mr Hayden was feeling "great pain" from a recent fall in which he broke his shoulder. However he was determined to go ahead.

Fr Dillon said he felt a "real closeness" with the former Australian leader as he baptised him.

"It was a big thing for him ... an act of submission to the fact that there was no denying for him that God is real and he had come to discover that," he said.

Mr Hayden attributed his conversion to the influence of his own mother, who was Catholic, and of the Ursuline Sisters, who taught him at primary school in inner-city Brisbane, and who stressed the principles of humanity, social commitment and service to others.

However, it was a recent hospital visit to see Sister of Mercy Angela Mary Doyle that proved the pivotal moment in Mr Hayden's faith journey.

"I have always felt embraced and loved by her Christian example," Mr Hayden said, of the 93-year-old, who has been a lifelong inspiration of service to him, and who was among the congregation at the baptism.

"Sister Angela Mary Doyle was for twenty-two years administrator of Mater hospitals in Brisbane – a citadel of health care for the poor of South Brisbane where I grew up towards the end of the Great Depression," he wrote in a letter to friends before the baptism.

"Dallas (my wife), our daughter Ingrid and I recently visited Sister Angela Mary in the Mater Hospital where she was a patient.

"The next morning I woke with

the strong sense that I had been in the presence of a holy woman.

"So after dwelling on these things I found my way back to the core of those beliefs – the Church."

Ironically, Mr Hayden said the message that Christianity was a religion not of rules, but of love came to him while reading a book on Shia Islam by academic Malise Ruthven.

"It is about love for your fellow humans, forgiveness, compassion and helpful support," he said.

"These characteristics are founded on the teachings of Christ and driven by faith in an external power – the Christian God whose limitations are beyond what humans could attain."

"I can no longer accept that human existence is self-sufficient and isolated."

Mr Hayden said he hoped his baptism might help others to see the importance of the Church with fresh eyes, especially after revelations of clerical child sexual abuse.

"The problems are caused by human agents of the Church, but we shouldn't let our faith be undermined by the action of agents who aren't quite as good as they should be," he said.

Mr Hayden said he hoped to serve the Church.

"I would like to play an active part in the St Vincent de Paul Society," he said.

"And I want to understand my theology better, by reading the Bible."

Mr Hayden recalled growing up with a father who treated his mother "quite badly".

"Unfortunately I had experience of what domestic abuse was all about," he said.

Mr Hayden was "indebted" to the Ursuline Sisters who taught him at primary school and shaped his social-policy thinking.

He was also shaped by Sr Angela



Faith inspiration: Bill Hayden and Sr Angela Mary.

Mary Doyle at Brisbane's Mater Hospital who "saw to it that the poor received the best medical attention at low cost, and pressed for universal health insurance".

"Without her, there would have been no Medibank and no Medicare today," Mr Hayden said.

"She displayed enormous courage in standing up for those principles against strong opposition, including from the medical profession.

"Later she again showed her strength and morality in standing up to narrow-minded political leadership in Queensland which wanted certain patients treated as though their often terminal illness was God's judgement on them – something quite contrary to her Christian spirit and compassion.

"Lots of people who couldn't afford expensive medical treatment, can now because she broke ranks and came out and supported it."

Mr Hayden started his adult career as a policeman before entering politics.

He succeeded Gough Whitlam as Leader of the Opposition and led the Labor party for six years, including an election defeat in 1980.

Just weeks before the 1983 election he resigned after

key frontbenchers switched allegiances to support Bob Hawke as leader.

In a Hawke government, Mr Hayden served as Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1983 to 1988 (Trade was added to his portfolio from 1987), and was then appointed governor-general for seven years.

Mr Hayden said he'd been wrestling with the idea of becoming a Catholic for a long time.

Among messages of congratulations he received a "marvellous letter" from former prime minister Kevin Rudd.

Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge also congratulated Mr Hayden.

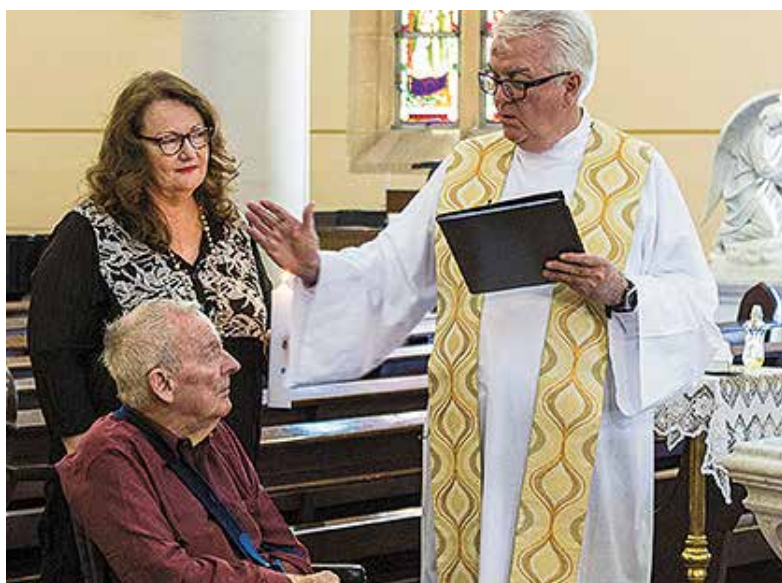
"I'm delighted for Bill and think it is a gift for not only him and his family but for the entire Church in some sense," he said.

"This is just another extraordinary moment late in life for a man who has already had an extraordinary journey.

"He wasn't a flawless politician, but he made a remarkable contribution.

"As one of his colleagues said to me, we owe Bill Hayden a lot including Medicare."

Bill's story also aired on the 7:30 Report on 1st October, 2018.



Fr Peter Dillon blessed Bill Hayden at St Mary's Church, Ipswich.

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