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In the Diocese of

Wagga Wagga

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Extraordinary Missionary Month

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Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019

Archbishop Christopher Prowse - Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



Pope Francis has declared this month of October as an Extraordinary Missionary Month.

It aims to foster an increased awareness amongst us all of the missio ad gentes (mission not just for us but for the entire world. See Mark 16/15). The Pope’s desire is that we will “take to heart the proclamation of the Gospel and to help ... communities grow in missionary and evangelising zeal”.

This happens on the centenary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter of Benedict XV Maximum Illud, which “sought to give new impetus to the missionary task of the proclaiming the Gospel”.

Evangelising expresses the deepest identity of the Church and her essential task. The Church is “missionary by nature” (Ad Gentes 2). Upon enquiry, you may be surprised to realise just how much recent Popes have stressed the Church’s constant missionary desire “to go forth”.

This October’s stress on evangelisation is totally in harmony with the Australian Plenary Council that we have embarked upon. Listen to what Pope Francis says about this month of October. It is almost as if he is speaking to us in our Australian Plenary Council.

We are to undertake “a missionary option capable of transforming everything, so that Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than



for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light...”

To launch this month, I celebrated a Mass on 1st October with our Carmelite Sisters on the Memorial of St Therese of the Child Jesus (1873-1897), the Little Flower. Incredibly, although never leaving her convent and dying at an early age, she is one of the Church’s greatest missionary saints. She gives us all a wonderful example of the profound link between the holiness of life and the desire for the salvation of all people, especially the poorest.

She wrote that placed in her cloistered monastery she would “want to preach the Gospel on all the five continents simultaneously and even to the most remote isles. I would be a missionary, not only for a few years only but from the beginning of creation until the consummation of the

ages.” Powerful missionary words from the young person in the French convent!

Providentially, her relics will travel around our Australian dioceses early next year. Her missionary and healing ministry continues. I predict thousands will flock to our churches when she makes her missionary pilgrimage amongst us during our Plenary Council.

I encourage all our parishes and communities to make a special effort to highlight our missionary dimension as Catholic Christians during this October month. It is not so much a matter of “adding more pastoral activities” to an already full timetable. More so, it is about becoming more reflective in our homilies, liturgies, gatherings, devotions and outreaches upon:

- Our personal encounter with Jesus
- The witness of the saints
- Our biblical and theological Tradition regarding missionary outreach
- The practical support we offer to the work of evangelisation in countries that are in most need.

In all of this, we recall deeply the Lord Jesus’ own command deep within us to “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations ... and look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.” (Matt.28/19, 20)

TOGETHER

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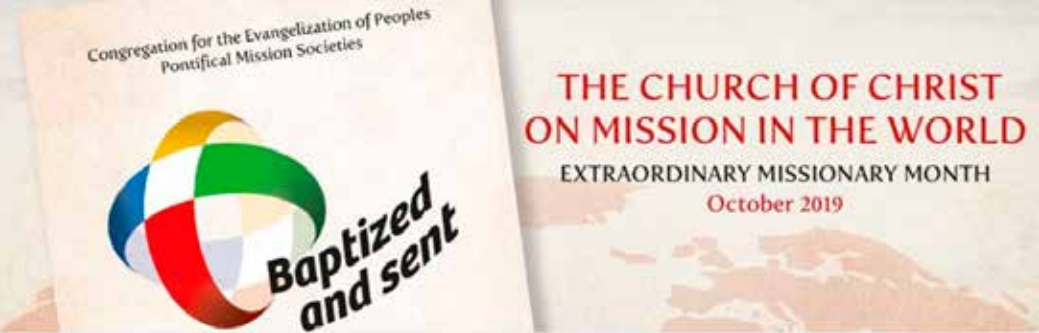
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Prayer Intention for October - Pray with Pope Francis

A Missionary “Spring” in the Church

That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary “spring” in the church.

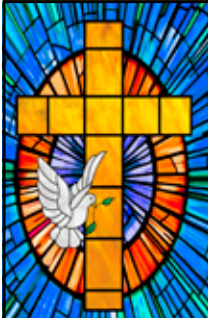
Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:
<http://popesprayerusa.net/category/pope-video/>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
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Prayer proposed by Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Missionary Month:
Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he commissioned his followers to “go and make disciples of all nations” and you remind us that through our Baptism we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.
Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be courageous and zealous in

bearing witness to the Gospel, so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion, may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world.
Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.
Amen.



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.

First Australian to be elected Prioress General of the Ursulines of the Roman Union

On Saturday 28 September, Sr Susan Flood OSU, Provincial of the Australian Ursulines and a member of the Council of Catholic Religious Australia, was elected as the Prioress General of the Ursulines of the Roman Union, which is present in 39 countries and has more than 1,500 members.

Sue is the first Australian to be elected to this important role, which is based in Rome, the term of office is eight years.

Sue is joined in this ministry of leadership with five other sisters from Indonesia, England, Poland, Brazil and Senegal.

On 3 October the members of the chapter were received in private audience by Pope Francis. Sue, in her greeting to Pope Francis, said the following:

“As Ursuline sisters, we deeply appreciate the leadership that you offer, and, hopefully, we can learn from you as we move into this new stage of our journey as daughters of Angela Merici. Like you, we also want to share

the message of Jesus with clarity and conviction.

“Holy Father, we acknowledge the contribution that you are making for our Church and within our world today. In particular we value your commitment to the poor and the marginalised; your desire to stand with migrants and refugees; the strength with which you speak for the created world; and your efforts to build inter-faith dialogue.

We recognise that you do not only speak about these matters. You also act whenever you can. You are not afraid to be amongst the people, to take upon yourself ‘the smell of the sheep’ as you encouraged us in “*Evangelii Gaudium*”. Thank you for that.



Sue Flood OSU meeting Pope Francis-Sept 2019

We assure you that we support your efforts to build a more inclusive church, a church that is open and responsive, a church that is truly hopeful and joyful.”
CRA President, Peter Carroll FMS said,

“It is wonderful to see an Australian sister like Sue, who has a passion for proclaiming the Good News, take up this leadership role on a global level at a time of challenge and hope in our Church.”

An occasion of thanks

In the 1950’s, Bishop Henschke was aware of a great need and a desire to have a contemplative presence, a power house of prayer, in the diocese.

Contributed by Sr Maria Hughes - Carmelite Monastery, Wagga Wagga

His dreams came to reality when he invited the Carmelite Community in Kew, Melbourne, to come to the Riverina.



That invitation was an answer to the nun’s prayers because, even with extensions to the building, the Monastery in Kew was at holding capacity. Their missionary dreams were fulfilled in this invitation to establish a foundation, their first, in the heart of the Riverina.

The rest is history.
Now, after 53 years of their prayer and presence here, there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving on 6th November at 4:00pm in the Monastery Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, 19 Morshead Street, Wagga Wagga.

Within the global world, Church and society, effects of “climate change” are an inescapable reality and we are experiencing an extended period of drought with its manifold challenges.

This Mass of Thanksgiving is an opportunity to thank God and the Sisters for the good times, the tough times, and all times which are all held in God and given as a gift.



The freedom to be Catholic

Religion has long been a hot button issue and recent debates about same-sex marriage, abortion and euthanasia have forced the Church to campaign and defend its teachings.

by Felicity de Fombelle

Now the focus has shifted to religious freedom, with an exposure draft of the Australian Government’s religious discrimination bill released on August 29.

Already the battle lines are drawn. While freedom of religion seems innocuous enough and is widely accepted – that everyone is entitled to their own belief (or non-belief) and to speak, teach and live accordingly – the question is to what degree.

Families can choose to send their children to taxpayer funded Catholic schools but how Catholic can that school be? Can our schools insist that staff teach and support Catholic teaching, for example that marriage is between a man and a woman? And what if staff do not?

That issue is in the spotlight with news of a test case by a former teacher at Ballarat Christian College, who claims she was discriminated against for her support of same-sex marriage.

Activist group Equality Australia is backing mother-of-three Rachel Colvin’s claim, which she lodged with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in mid-September.

Ms Colvin claims she was forced to leave after refusing to adhere to the school’s policy on same-sex marriage. The school’s enterprise agreement contains a clause that “all employees are expected to possess and maintain a firm belief consistent with the Statement of Faith of the college.”

In a media statement, Equality Australia CEO Anna Brown said Australians should not be “hounded out of jobs” because their religious beliefs support same-sex relationships and respect LGBTIQ people.

Ms Brown criticised the school for seeking to “impose its narrow minded version of Christianity and control the personal beliefs of its staff.”

The government’s religious discrimination bill seeks to address some of these issues, which is not an easy task.

ACU Vice-Chancellor Prof Greg Craven wrote recently, “This is the problem with human rights, like freedom of religion. It is not whether you agree with them in abstract but which right wins when religion collides with freedom of speech, or association, or sexual expression.

“In the Western world, the practical answer is clear enough. Religion is the

12-pound weakling of human rights.

“Faced by almost any other demand, it will be sacrificed by politicians, legislators and bureaucrats, particularly if they are ‘progressively’ inclined.”

That is what most concerns the Church, that the bill downplays the centrality of faith in the multitude of rights.

Not surprisingly, Equality Australia has slammed the bill, claiming it “privileges the interests of religious institutions over the rights and freedoms of everyday Australians.”

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher has warned that activistbacked legal cases threaten the future of Australia’s faith-based schools.

One in three of Australia’s 3.9 million school students attend faith-based schools. And 60 per cent of that cohort are in our 1746 Catholic schools, which shows the importance and influence of Catholic education in Australia.

Archbishop Fisher, who chairs the Bishops’ Commission for Catholic Education, called on Attorney-General Christian Porter to “urgently clarify” if faith-based schools and other institutions would be protected in such legal cases.

And he criticised both major political parties for failing on a promise to protect religious freedom after same-sex marriage became law.

“Two years later and we are still awaiting adequate religious freedom protections,” Archbishop Fisher said.

“Two years later and religious schools are being subjected to exactly the sort of lawfare they said they feared and our leaders promised would be prevented.”

Archbishop Fisher slammed the Equality Australia activism which he said seemed to have been “carefully timed in an attempt to derail current efforts to protect religious freedom in Australia.”

“It is the same style of activism that sought to weaponise state antidiscrimination law against Archbishop of Hobart, Julian Porteous, for distributing pamphlets about Catholic teaching on marriage,” he said.

“This case challenges the right of religious schools to teach that marriage is between a man and a woman and to require staff not to undermine that teaching.

“It contests the right of parents to choose schools that accord with their own religious beliefs.”

* References: Institute for Civil Society (ICS) www.ic4s.com.au



Religious Discrimination Bill - Key Facts:

- The Bill protects various activities, such as employment, education and charitable work, and provides religious exemptions relating to these activities.
- Section 41 raises the threshold for complaints against religious expression (the Julian Porteous case). It protects the right to make a statement of religious belief, provided a statement is not malicious, harassing, vilifying or inciting hatred or violence. This protection covers statements of belief and non-belief and should prevail over other anti-discrimination legislation, putting an end to actions such as the Porteous case.
- Section 10 protects the right of religious bodies (educational, charitable and others performed on a religious basis) to act in accordance with their religion in conducting those activities. This should protect religious education in Catholic schools.
- The “Israel Folau” clause states that employers may restrict or prevent employees’ statements of religious belief outside work, but large companies with an annual turnover of \$50m need to show “unjustifiable financial hardship.” The concern is that workers will have to watch what they say as private citizens because activists have used boycotts and social media campaigns to target and silence organisations which do not conform to their ‘progressive’ views, particularly about sexuality and marriage.
- The Australian Law Reform Commission is reviewing religious exemptions in anti-discrimination law generally, but that report is now not due until December 2020. This will shine the spotlight on issues such as whether a teacher in a Catholic school must adhere to religious teachings inside and outside the classroom.
- There is public consultation about the Bill. Submissions were due on October 2. Attorney-General Christian Porter is consulting with faith and human rights/ LGBTIQ groups.



“We are in favour of some type of religious discrimination act but it is important that it is a positive law, one not about exemptions. The government should go further than an exemption-based law and take a positive approach to recognise religious rights that would protect schools, hospitals and charities that adhere to church teachings.”

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, spokesman for the Australian Bishops on religious freedom

Dominican delight as duo make their final vows

Religious life in regional New South Wales is alive and well, with two members of the Conventual Sisters of St Dominic taking their final vows in Ganmain on October 7.

by Matthew Biddle

In front of an overflowing St Brendan's Church, Sr Mary Dominica Ramsey OP and Sr Mary Catherine Reeves OP committed their lives to the service of the Church, several years after first responding to God's call to religious life.

"It is truly a momentous and joyful occasion for the whole Church, and particularly for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga," Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE, who presided over the ceremony, said.

"Religious life is a sign of hope to us all and we need it in our society that is so fixed on itself and has turned away from being fixed on God.

"The world will say you are crazy... we're fools for Christ, and that's something to rejoice in, that you are giving your life to Christ."

The religious community now boasts five fully professed Sisters and two who have made temporary vows. The last time a member of the community made her final profession was back in 2010.

Prior to entering religious life, Sr Mary Catherine was completing a physiotherapy degree, but it was during World Youth Day in 2008 that she began to contemplate a vocation.

"Pope Benedict said to us all in Sydney... 'Do not be afraid to say 'yes' to Jesus, to find your joy in doing his will, giving yourself completely to the pursuit of holiness, and using all your talents in the service of others'," she explained.

"I said 'yes' in my heart, and knew I had to do something about it. I was also part of a youth group in Albury which gave me confidence in my faith, and I had

priests who advised me to begin visiting convents."

The second eldest in a family of eight, Sr Mary Catherine said her parents' example and the love of her siblings gave her a strong foundation in her faith from a young age.

"Growing up, I saw my parents put God first in word and example, I saw them trust God in difficult times, and love Him in times of sorrow," she said.

"They taught us to pray, to know and love our faith, to esteem the saints and to be willing to put others first. My parents enrolled us in Catholic home schooling programs which gave us an excellent education, and supported us in the faith and linked us with friends I have to this day."

For Sr Mary Dominica, who grew up in Queensland, World Youth Day 2008 was also the catalyst for her journey to religious life.

"I was a first-year teacher... but after going to the vocations expo at World Youth Day I realised I had to do something, so I applied to Campion College, to learn more about the faith," she recalled.

"I was able to develop a regular prayer life, and be fed with the beautiful truths of the faith, and how to think more logically and critically. I dropped out after two years and dropped into religious life and have never looked back."

From a family of nine, Sr Mary Dominica said her parents and siblings have fully supported her vocation. Her siblings travelled from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Central Queensland to attend the Mass of Final Profession,



while her grandmother travelled 2,000km to attend.

Prioress of the community, Sr Mary Augustine OP, said the taking of final vows was "the culmination of many years of formation, testing and vocational discernment".

"For the community there is a great sense of reassurance in this final, total commitment and a feeling that Mother Church has scored another religious witness she can truly rely on," she said.

The Conventual Sisters of St Dominic is a semi-contemplative order, with the Sisters teaching part-time at St Mary MacKillop Colleges in Wagga Wagga.

Sr Mary Augustine said the newly professed Sisters both have their own special gifts that enrich the community.

"Sr Mary Catherine is our historian and producer of dramatic wonders," she said. "Sr Mary Dominica is our builder and mender. Both are effective and enthusiastic teachers of the young, and both Sisters have a great love for and loyalty to the spirit of St Dominic and reflect that an irrepressible desire for the spreading of the truth and the salvation of souls that was so typical of him."

While the discernment of a religious

vocation can be a challenging task, Sr Mary Augustine said the families of both Sr Mary Catherine and Sr Mary Dominica had given them a "huge advantage" in the process.

"These two young sisters both come to the community from strong Catholic family backgrounds where the faith is well-known and loved and practised," she said.

"To know that your [family] understand your vocation and support you 100 per cent in following it means that these Sisters have a strong spiritual sense and clear moral orientation, which enables them to live very happily and faithfully the life of prayer and community, and the demands of the religious vows."

Sr Mary Catherine and Sr Mary Dominica said anyone considering a religious vocation should both pray and investigate religious life practically.

"Pray for the grace to be open to God's will, whatever that may be, and then act," Sr Mary Dominica said. "Visit convents, ask lots of questions, especially in prayer, and listen to the answers. If you don't have a vocation to religious life, the process will have made you a better person."



Relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux to return to Australia in 2020

For the first time in 18 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular saints of modern times, will visit Australia next year on a four-month pilgrimage with her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin.

From February through May 2020, the family's relics will travel to Queensland, New South Wales and ACT, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia.

The pilgrimage was officially announced by Catholic Mission, who are partnering with InvoCare to bring the relics to seventeen Australian dioceses in both metropolitan and rural areas.

The pilgrimage will link with InvoCare's funeral homes and memorial parks across the dioceses, including WN Bull Funerals and Guardian Funerals (Sydney), Hansen & Cole Funerals (Wollongong), Tobin Brothers Funerals (Canberra), Southern Highland Funerals (Moss Vale, NSW), Hastings District Funeral and Cremations Service (Port Macquarie, NSW), George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals (Brisbane), Le Pine Funerals (Melbourne), Turnbull Funerals (Hobart), Purslowe & Chipper Funerals (Perth) and Archer & Sons Funeral Homes (Bunbury, WA).

The October 1 announcement coincides not only with the feast day of St Thérèse of Lisieux, but also the beginning of the global celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month. St Thérèse, known as the Little Flower of Jesus, is the patron saint of mission.

'As the Pope's own mission agency, we are very pleased to be able to partner with InvoCare, who will undertake the secure transport and housing of the relics, to bring this opportunity to Australians,' said Father Brian Lucas, National Director of Catholic Mission.

InvoCare has funeral home locations across Australia and memorial parks in

New South Wales and Queensland that will support the pilgrimage.

'We are proud to partner with Catholic Mission and the community in each location the family's relics will travel to,' said Damien MacRae, InvoCare Chief Operating Officer. 'Our people and our funeral homes are deeply embedded in the local communities and are well positioned to support the transport and access for the Catholic community at each location.'

The relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux last came to Australia in 2002 where they were met with an outpouring of adoration among the faithful in Sydney. 'The plan at St Mary's Cathedral was to have a mass and about three hours of veneration,' recalls Father Lucas.

'As it happened, more than 20,000 people passed through the cathedral, which remained open for 36 hours straight. There were also 400,000 people who venerated the relics nationally.'

The devotion to relics among many Catholics is complex, but Father Lucas likens it to a secular example. 'People might go to a charity fundraiser and bid for a footy jersey signed by the team; something tangible and practical that serves as a reminder of the people or the event,' he said.

'That's what the relics of the saints are intended to do, to remind us and give us the opportunity to enter into the life of those saints and what they can teach us.'

St Thérèse was born in 1873 and felt an early call to religious life. She entered the Carmelite order at age 15 after experiencing what she called her "complete conversion". Her simple way of



living, spiritual writings and commitment to small acts of charity and love made her an immensely popular figure, and her canonisation in St Peter's Basilica in 1925, just 28 years after her death, was attended by over 60,000 people.

Her parents, Louis and Zélie, became the first spouses to be canonised as a couple in 2015. Father Lucas says the togetherness of the family is an important feature of next year's pilgrimage. 'I think the connection between the relics of St Thérèse and [those] of her parents gives us an opportunity to consider the importance of relationships and family life.'

While it is difficult to predict whether the February arrival of the relics will

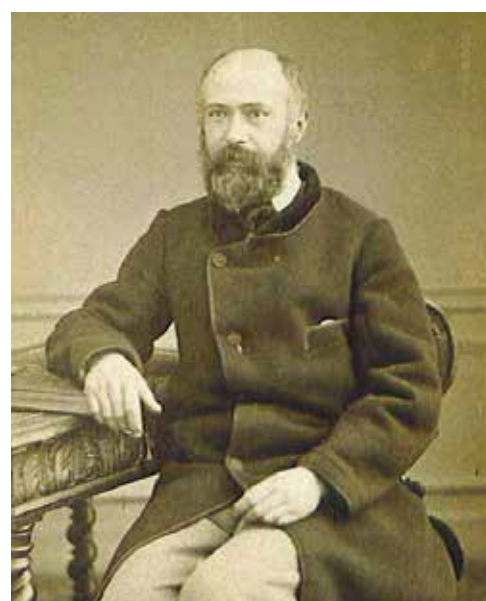
attract similar response as in 2002, Father Lucas believes the pilgrimage will be a powerful moment of connection between Australians and an immensely popular and beloved saint. 'I think the great legacy of St Thérèse of Lisieux is the example she gave through her writings of her connectedness to God,' he said. 'Her struggle with weakness but her fierce determination to be loyal and faithful to God's will is the legacy that everyone can participate in.'

Father Lucas says the realisation of the simplicity of her message will give people a firm foundation for their own spiritual journey. 'The pilgrimage of the relics in 2020 will be an opportunity for Australians to come together, to have that sense of belonging, and to find inspiration in the life of St Thérèse and her parents.'

'Ahead of the Plenary Council 2020, it affords us a chance for prayerful reflection and to feel a closeness to God in the way St Thérèse did.'

To learn more about the pilgrimage of St Thérèse of Lisieux and Sts Louis and Zélie Martin, visit www.catholicmission.org.au/relics

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Left: St Thérèse of Lisieux Middle: St Zélie Martin, mother of St Therese Right: St Louis Martin, father of St Therese

National swimming achievement opens a new world for local student

Wagga teenager Gretta Leigh-Cooper went to a national carnival, won her race, and qualified for a world championships.

by Peter Doherty - Originally published in the Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser

An open-age world championships, at just 16. It's a hell of a sports story. But it's not the whole story. Gretta's is a whole lot more than that.

The Mater Dei Catholic College student is back in the pool at Wagga's Oasis, a month after her win at the Down Syndrome Swimming Australia National Championships in Brisbane. Gretta's at home in the water. She floats, moves freely, and gracefully. "It's fun," she says. She loves it, almost as much as she loves the woman her taught her to swim, Emily Paul.

"She does (help me)," Gretta says. "She's gorgeous." Emily laughs, and the two hug. Gretta, the swimmer, and the friend who's been coaching her since she was five. "It's been so enjoyable. I think it's been one of the most rewarding things I've been a part of," Emily says. "She's just so determined. She has such a positive attitude and has probably inspired me a lot in terms of when she puts her mind to something. "It's been challenging. You know, we went from her not being able to put her goggles on and not wanting to put her head in the water to now - obviously she can swim laps, and does a beautiful 50 metres of freestyle."

Emily wasn't in Brisbane for the Down Syndrome Nationals. But Gretta's parents, Andrew and Sue, sent her a video of Gretta's winning swim. "I was so impressed," Emily says. "Those around me have known I've been coaching for her a long time. But when they saw that video, they just

couldn't believe how talented she is. "I was emotional, if I'm honest. Really emotional. "I'm so proud of her. She's just a great role model." As for Gretta, it simply felt good to win: "Like a little champion," she says. Against adults, and vastly more experienced swimmers, Gretta was representing NSW for the first time, and won her heat comfortably. She stretches her arms out now, and a race caller might say she won going away. The win qualified the teen for next year's world championships in Turkey. At 16, Gretta is too young to go, but swimming has already opened a new world. "We didn't know what she was going to be like at nationals," mum, Sue Leigh-Cooper, says.

"She won her heat very easily, swimming against world champions in their 20s and 30s. She shocked us!" Sue says Down syndrome swimmers are said to peak in their mid-to-late 20s. They hope Gretta's efforts encourage more to take up the sport. "You don't realise what your kids can do. Other parents (of Down syndrome children) will see that they can achieve great things," Sue says. "Finding something that Gretta loves, she's changed. She absolutely loves it, and she's met other children with the same disability. She's met new friends. "She met her boyfriend up there, and had her first dance (with Tim, a 22-year-old world champion from Wollongong who asked her to dance at the formal party following nationals)."



Gretta Leigh-Cooper in the pool at Oasis. Picture: Les Smith

Her mum says they couldn't get her off the dance floor. Gretta's more coy. "Yeah, I had a dance. With my friends," she says. The Leigh-Coopers are as proud of the community around their daughter, as they are of Gretta. As well as Emily, there's Jeannie Symons working on her strength at Flex-It gym (where Gretta now has a part-time job too). Mater Dei's sports coordinator Nathan Irvine helped the year 10 student on the path towards state selection and a nationals swim. And Wagga Swim Club coach Gennadiy Labara has welcomed her to his squad, for which the Leigh-Coopers couldn't be more grateful.

"She copies, and she's getting faster because she's keeping up with mainstream swimming kids. She knows no different, and she'll do whatever they do. She's a fighter," Sue says. "That's why we're so thankful they took her on. 'G' (Gennadiy), he's a wonderful man." Emily says being involved with the swim club will be key to Gretta's progression. "That's the point she's at," Emily says. "I've been able to help her with her stroke correction and actually learning how to swim but now it's all about training and endurance and that's what swimming club is all about. "So being a part of that is a really important thing for Gretta now."



Gretta Leigh-Cooper (right) in the pool at Oasis with her coach, Emily Paul. Picture: Les Smith

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Africa Emergency Appeal

Climate emergency, conflict and communicable disease outbreaks across Africa continue to bring hardship to vulnerable communities. In some parts of the continent, communities are facing a ‘triple whammy’: food insecurity, displacement due to conflict and disease outbreaks.

Caritas response to food insecurity in Africa

As a direct result of conflict, massive numbers of people are currently displaced within their own countries or seeking refuge elsewhere. Once displaced, families struggle to meet their basic needs such as shelter, food & water, health care and education for their children. Their needs often place greater stress on the host communities who are often struggling themselves.

Through a uniquely deep reach into vulnerable communities, with our partner agencies in Africa, Caritas Australia’s network is working to assist over half a million people across Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan and Sudan.

With the help of our supporters, we are providing emergency relief and assistance to the people who are the most affected and need it most. Local

and international Caritas Australia’s partner agencies are on the ground providing:

- clean water
- food items such as beans, sugar, salt, oil and maize flour
- sanitation supplies
- other emergency supplies

We are continuing to monitor the needs throughout the region and will update our response as the situation develops. We also support long-term development programs across South Sudan, Kenya and Malawi, with a focus on food security, sustainable livelihoods, water and sanitation, gender and child protection.

Your compassionate support will help save lives and also protect communities to ensure they are more resilient in the case of future emergencies.



Caritas response to the global health emergency

In the villages of northeast Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the scars of conflict and extreme poverty are all too visible. In this context, the deadly and highly contagious Ebola, which has claimed over 1,800 lives in the past year spread fear across the country and the region, is a crisis within a crisis.

Recently, the first case of Ebola

was diagnosed in the city of Goma, with the World Health Organization declaring the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern”. This emergency provision has only been enacted four times previously, but considerations such as the size of the city of Goma and its location on the border with Rwanda means the United Nations have deemed the confirmed case to be a “potential game-changer”.

Fighting Ebola means spreading the message – teaching people the signs and symptoms and how to prevent the disease from spreading further.

There is a vaccine available, but many communities fear the vaccine is poison. A key part of Caritas’ work in DRC is to spread the public health messages by building trust in communities – one of the main barriers for aid agencies.

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The kids can have a go at our famous scavenger hunt or chill
out in our nature play area.



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Grandparents Doing
It Tough - Barooga

A Monthly Support Group for Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren & Grandparents Seeking
Access to Grandchildren

A Monthly Support Group for Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren & Grandparents
Seeking Access to Grandchildren as a result of:

- Family Law Court Decisions
- Separation / Divorce
- Drug or Alcohol Addiction
- Illness / Disability
- Death / Suicide
- Mental Health

Grandparents face many challenges
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- Behavioral problems / lack of behavioral strategies
- Challenges with setting boundaries or establishing routines
- Social isolation
- Dealing with courts and the legal system
- Increased stress & financial hardship
- Decreased energy
- Child development issues
- Dealing with schools and advocating for children

- Grief and loss
- Holiday care activities / respite care
- Accessing community resources, especially for young people with disabilities

The Grandparents Group offers you:

- Understanding
- Friendship
- Shared experiences and knowledge
- Social Activities
- Parenting Strategies
- Support and advocacy
- Education
- Guest Speakers

Meeting held 3rd Friday of each
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Featured projects in October

- Malawi: Mission accomplished: emergency aid following the severe flooding in March 2019
- Egypt: Help for the formation of four seminarians of the SMA missionaries
- India: Help for the formation of 23 seminarians

Malawi - Mission accomplished: emergency aid following the severe flooding in March 2019

In March 2019 many areas of southern Malawi were struck by devastating floods. Torrential rainfall continued for days on end, affecting almost 1 million people in 16 of the 28 districts of the country, which is already one of the poorest nations in the world. Around 80,000 people lost their homes, while over 500 people were injured and some 60 died. Houses, fields, roads and bridges were damaged or destroyed.

The Catholic Church was immediately on the spot, ready to provide spiritual and moral support. However, there was also a need for food, clothing, blankets and temporary shelters, as well as for cooking utensils and water purification systems in order to prevent the spread of diseases.

ACN also responded immediately, thanks to the generosity of our benefactors, and was able to provide AUD \$32,482 in emergency aid. Our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed!

Egypt - Help for the formation of four seminarians of the SMA missionaries

The Society of African Missions (SMA Fathers) was founded in 1856 as a society of priests committed to serving and evangelising the people of the African continent. Whereas in the past its members were overwhelmingly drawn from Europe and North America,

today the majority of its vocations come from Asia and Africa itself. There are around 860 priests belonging to the SMA today, and their members are active in 16 different countries of Africa. One of these priests is the Italian missionary Pierluigi Maccalli, who was abducted in September 2018 in Niger, in West Africa.

One of the formation houses of the SMA Fathers is the seminary of Saint Mark in the Egyptian capital Cairo. Each year a group of seminarians comes to study here in order to gain experience of living in a Muslim environment. This helps them to prepare for their pastoral service to the Christian minorities in various different Islam-majority countries of Africa and the Middle East.

The young men who have come to Cairo for this part of their formation have already made their temporary vows. After this year in Cairo they will go to other countries to complete their studies.

This year there are four SMA seminarians following this formation year in Cairo. Their superiors have asked for financial support towards their travel costs, board and lodging and also for their courses in Arabic. We are helping with AUD \$3248

India - Help for the formation of 23 seminarians

The Congregation of the Holy Cross was founded in 1820 in France when, following the French Revolution, an



Emergency assistance for southern Malawi - flooding after cyclone Idai
Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need

entire generation of young people was growing up almost without any religious formation. Father Jacques Dujarie, who had been ordained in secret during the time of the revolution, gathered around him a group of young men dedicated to the religious instruction of young people in the country areas. Within 20 or 30 years the resulting religious congregation had spread as far as Algeria, the United States, Italy and East Bengal (which now includes parts of India and Bangladesh).

Today the congregation is present and active in 16 countries. Its religious brothers and priests devote themselves to the religious instruction and general education of young people. They also run many schools, since they see the formation of the spirit as the essential foundation for the tackling of the pressing problems of the present day, from a perspective of faith.

The congregation is particularly active in India, where it enjoys numerous new

vocations. Not surprisingly, therefore, Indian priests of the Holy Cross Congregation are present not only in India but also in other countries, as missionaries. The congregation has four regional provinces within India itself. It recognises the growing importance, in light of the widespread consumerism and globalisation in today's world, of helping families and young people to become more deeply rooted in the Christian faith. But in order to achieve this, the priests themselves need to have a sound and solid formation. In the southern Indian province of the congregation there are 23 young men currently studying for the priesthood. ACN is proposing to help them, with a contribution of AUD \$11,200 towards the cost of their formation. All of you who help may be assured of the prayers of these seminarians!

Important note: The projects above are just a small sample of the project requests Aid to the Church in Need receives. Therefore when making a donation we recommend you specify your gift to "projects most in need" that way your donation will be allocated to a project that desperately needs funding.

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

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



Formation of four seminarians - Society of African Missions, 2019
Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need



Formation of Seminarians Fathers of the Holy Cross, CSC - Province of South India
Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need



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Kairos Outside Weekend for Women



And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: *Ezekiel 37:22*

A residential weekend for women who have had family members, partners or friends in prison or juvenile detention will be held in Wagga Wagga in November.

Bind Us Together is the theme of the weekend which has been organised by Kairos Prison Ministry, a voluntary community-based Christian ministry which serves both those in prison and the families and friends of those in prison.

Kairos Outside for Women is a non-denominational program which supports women who are currently (or have been in the past) impacted by the imprisonment of someone serving time in a correctional centre or juvenile offender program.

For many Kairos Outside participants the weekend may be the first time they have experienced a loving, safe place in which to work through their emotional pain or anger and their sense of isolation and rejection.

Kairos Outside for Women starts with a live-in weekend which will be held this year from Friday evening, 8 November to Sunday evening 10 November at St Martin's College, Charles Sturt University (CSU) campus, Wagga Wagga.

On this weekend the all-women team members and guests share their stories and how they manage life's challenges. Some guests have never had the opportunity to do this previously as they have found it too difficult or

painful to talk about their situation or feel silenced because of embarrassment and fear of people's

judgement.

They can share their experiences and work through their emotional pain and their sense of isolation and rejection in a safe environment where there is commitment to maintain confidentiality.

There is real compassion among women who share a similar experience. Some women benefit so much from the weekend they are able to make significant changes in their lives and create healthier relationships for themselves and their families.

The weekend is free to those who want to come along for support and friendship from people who understand and care. It is open to any adult female relative or supporter of a current or former prison inmate.

Guests come from all over the Riverina including Griffith, Albury, Cootamundra, Tumbarumba, West Wyalong and anywhere in between.

The Kairos Outside team includes Christian women from all churches who come together to support other women. It is an ecumenical ministry. Some share the experience of having someone close to them in prison.

While the program is based on Christian principles, women don't have to be a Christian or belong to any denomination to attend. Kairos Outside for Women is open to women from all backgrounds. Travel arrangements are made for those wishing to come to the weekend.

Ongoing support is available after the weekend as monthly reunions are held.

If you would like an application form or more information please phone Nola Baker on 0458 224 430 or email kowriverina@gmail.com



Inside or Outside: Kairos is about changing lives

Kairos is a mission to those inside prison and to those affected by having someone inside.

Through a 40-hour program given over three to five days inside prisons (called a 'Short Course') and 25 hours over a weekend for outside programs, Kairos presents the possibility of a different, positive life through supportive, compassionate and non-judgmental words, actions and examples.

Kairos with the help of more than 2,000 volunteers around Australia reaches out to:

- **male and female inmates** saying "You have a choice"
- **family and friends** of those inmates, saying "You are not alone"
- **juvenile offenders**, saying "There's a better way ahead".

Kairos commenced with a course (based on Cursillo) in Union Correctional Institution, a maximum-security prison at Raiford, Florida, USA in 1976.

From that experience a model was developed that could be presented in any prison without changing the content or format. It was aimed specifically at one environment: that of correctional institutions. It was called Kairos from the Greek word for time used in the sense of 'special time' for a particular event.

“The families on the outside were often having as many problems as the person on the inside.”

Kairos was found to be a word of very special significance in the environment of the correctional institution where the word time carries so many connotations.

'Kairos Outside' began in 1989 when the chaplain at San Quentin State

Correctional Facility in California saw a need to help the families of those incarcerated. The families on the outside were often having as many problems as the person on the inside.

The first Kairos course outside the USA was piloted in June/July 1995 at the Parramatta Correctional Institution. Kairos Outside commenced in Australia in Sydney in May 1999. 'Kairos Torch' – a program for juvenile offenders - was introduced in Australia at the Frank Baxter Juvenile Justice Centre on the NSW Central Coast in April 2001.

Today Kairos is active in over 400 prisons worldwide. Kairos Outside operates in over 80 regions while Kairos Torch operates in over 30 juvenile centres. Kairos currently has more than 30,000 volunteers around the world.

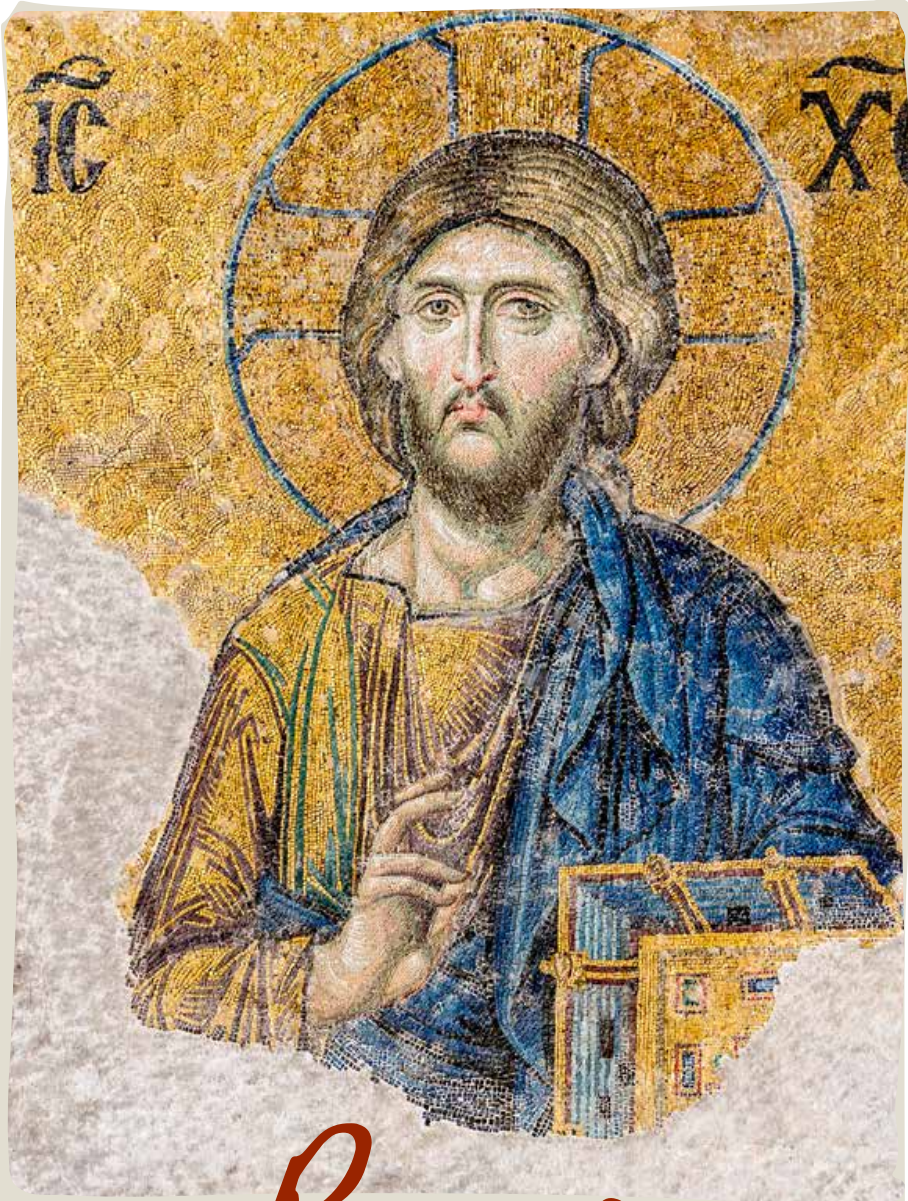
In Australia, Kairos is operating in over 20 correctional centres; Kairos Outside in over 11 regions and Kairos Torch in two juvenile facilities. Kairos Australia is in a growth phase, with regional and developmental committees in all states and territories planning and

negotiating new opportunities.

At Kairos, we know we can't fix their problems or solve the causes, as people have to be allowed to make their own decisions. But we can help people to recognise, choose and live new lives.

For more information about Kairos please see their website <http://kairos.org.au>





Prayer

**FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY
MISSIONARY MONTH**

Heavenly Father,
when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ
rose from the dead,
he commissioned his followers
to 'go and make disciples of all nations'
and you remind us that through our Baptism
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to be courageous and zealous
in bearing witness to the Gospel,
so that the mission entrusted to the Church,
which is still very far from completion,
may find new and efficacious expressions
that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples
to experience the saving love
and mercy of Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

**To find out more about
Extraordinary Missionary Month visit:
www.catholicmission.org.au/emm**

How the Gospels became history

Belief in the Bible as true is at the core of Christian identity. But a new book shows the question of what is historical in the Gospels is complex and requires an understanding of how ancient storytelling worked.

***How the Gospels Became History* by Dr. M. David Litwa explores how storytellers in the time of Jesus made fantastical tales look like historical truth and what that means for contemporary readers of the Bible.**

Dr Litwa, who is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University, uses historicized Greek and Roman myths as comparative texts to examine the New Testament. He has found striking similarities in the way the stories were constructed. His research poses questions about the place of historicity in Christian belief.

"Christian theology has a commitment to the flesh and blood of Jesus—flesh and blood that is eaten, literally or metaphorically, every week in Eucharistic services. But does that commitment to flesh and blood work itself out in a commitment to historicity—to affirming every concrete event in Jesus's life as recorded in the gospels?"

There were very good reasons in antiquity why a document which does not record history would be made to look historical, Dr Litwa explained. "There was great motivation in antiquity to portray myths in the form of history, because portraying myths in

this way heightened their truth value. Ancient historians wanted their myths to participate in the discourse of reality so that they would be believable to educated audiences."

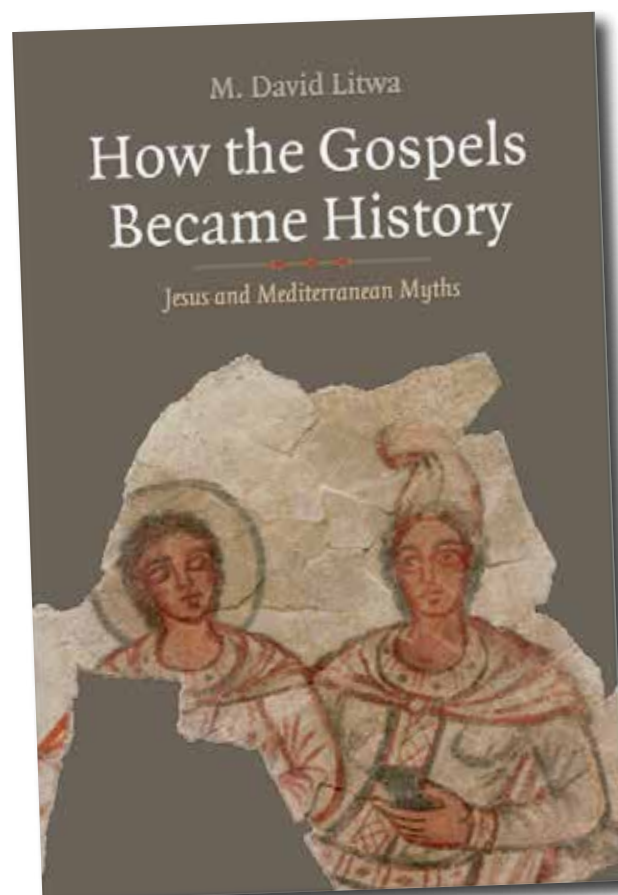
Ancient writers used a series of techniques or tropes to make stories seem true. For example, they wove their stories around known historical figures, places or events; included eyewitness and alternative reports and even staged scepticism. They also used literary techniques such as straightforward, matter-of-fact presentation and the presentation of circumstantial details, like the sun darkening at noon.

"Each of the individual evangelists did not use all these tropes, and they did not use them all consistently. When they did use them, however, they used them skillfully and often enough to make their works seem—even today—like historiography," Dr Litwa writes.

These techniques do not mean that Jesus is an invention, nor that the Gospels are simply based on Greco-Roman myths. But they do raise questions about how Christians negotiate belief and define "gospel truth".

The book also raises questions about why historical truth has been held to be so important in Western culture and whether the stories can be just as true even if they are not historical.

"Why are we more compelled by movies or stories that are publicised as 'Based on True Events'? Why, given what we know about the fallibility of human memory, is the story of "what actually happened" any more important than the story of what we collectively imagine happened? And why do Westerners in general still pride themselves on their 'history' when what they're actually talking about is the collective but selective memory of their prized cultural myths?"





St Vincent de Paul Society *good works*

Drought Community Support

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society has welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement on 27 September of further assistance to rural communities devastated by the unrelenting drought.

The Government announced that the St Vincent de Paul Society will participate in the roll out of this next phase of the Drought Community Support Initiative.

National Council President, Claire Victory, said the Society welcomed the opportunity to continue to work in local communities to distribute the funding and ensure people on the ground can access the support they need.

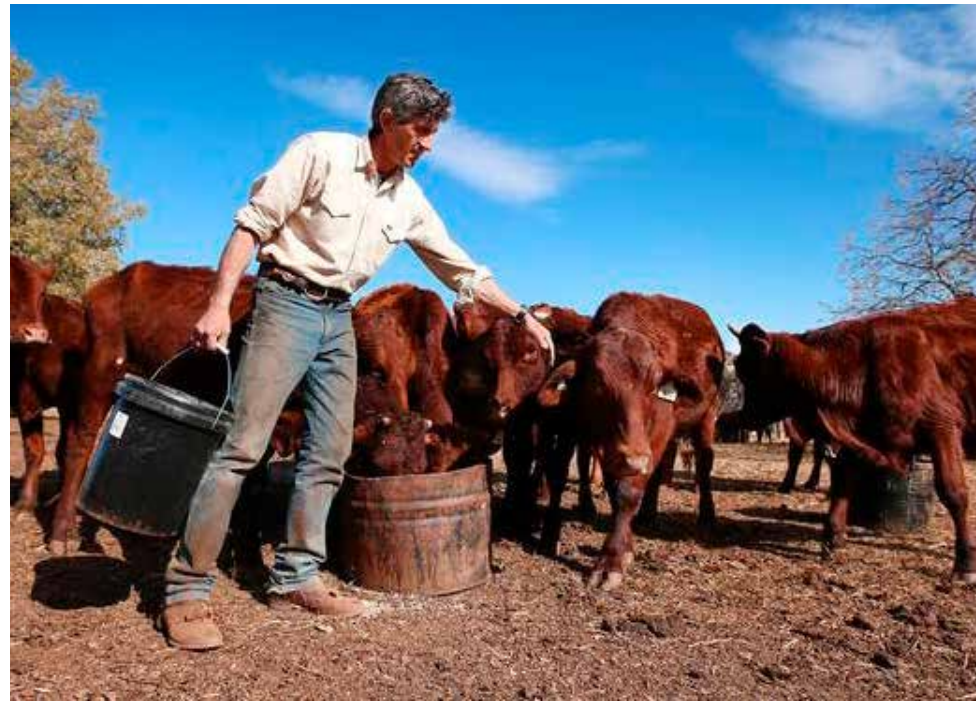
'We have a long history of working on the ground in local communities through over a thousand Conferences in regional, rural, remote and urban areas. We have an ongoing relationship with these communities and are well placed to respond in the face of an emergency.'

'Our members have been helping over 3,700 farmers, farm workers and farm suppliers and contractors since the beginning of the funding in December 2018' Ms Victory said.

The Drought Community Support Initiative concluded at the end of June this year. It is anticipated that the fresh round of support will commence urgently, possibly within a fortnight.

People who used the program said the contribution of Vinnies staff and volunteers was 'outstanding'.

The Federal Government said it was 'pleased to partner with an experienced and trusted organisation to deliver this much needed support in drought-affected regions'.



*Precious grain for desperate livestock on the O'Brien property.
Credit: News Corp Australia, Sam Rutty*

'We'll be pulling up our sleeves and getting on with this as soon as the funding becomes available,' said National Council CEO Toby O'Connor.

'We welcome the opportunity to work with the Federal Government on this

initiative and look forward to working in local rural communities to assist local government and community groups to bring dignity to the lives of people who are struggling because of the drought.'

Australian Religious recognised in Rome for 'Outstanding Contribution Against Trafficking in Humans'

Sr Louise Cleary CSB was recognised at the opening ceremony of the Talitha Kum General Assembly, the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons, which was held in Rome, from 21 to 27 September 2019.

The General Assembly celebrated the 10th anniversary of Talitha Kum, which was established by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) in 2009 and is an international network, represented in 70 countries, connecting organisations working to eradicate human trafficking.

Louise, who is a member of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) and the Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) Justice Committee, was acknowledged for her significant and dynamic contribution to the ongoing work of raising awareness about human trafficking around Australia, inspiring collaboration among community groups and identifying the need for legislative and policy change.

"This award needs to be seen as recognition of the teamwork of many religious and our collaborators across Australia," said Louise. "Human trafficking is a global phenomenon that requires significant collaboration both at the

national level and international level, if any gains are to be made in addressing this evil."

CRA President, Peter Carroll FMS congratulated Louise and said, "The work of Religious towards the elimination of human trafficking is invaluable and goes to the core of our Gospel values to protect and free vulnerable people from oppression. We are deeply grateful to religious, like Louise, for their tireless efforts."

"Being part of an international network has facilitated the ability for organisations such as ACRATH to work locally but with a global awareness," said ACRATH President, Noelene Simmons SM.

The expression 'Talitha Kum – arise' is found in the Gospel of Mark and has the transformative power of compassion and mercy. **It awakens the deep desire for dignity and life, which may be asleep and injured by the many forms of exploitation.**



Louise Cleary CSB - Talitha Kum Award recipient

50th birthday celebrations for Father Henry Ibe

Father Henry Ibe was appointed Parish Priest of Lockhart and Urana just over 12 months ago. Originally from Nigeria, Father Henry has brought some amazing culture to Lockhart community.

This Nigerian culture was experienced by many when Father Henry celebrated his 50th birthday in Lockhart recently.

The people of Lockhart were overjoyed with the Nigerian influence on the occasion of his birthday celebrations, beginning with a Mass at which several Priests, students from Vianney College and local community members attended along with a large contingent of family and friends of Father Henry of which many were Nigerian.

The Mass was accompanied by the amazing voices of the Nigerian choir and members from Vianney College.

Father Henry’s lifetime friend, Bola, along with the local community, catered for the occasion and decorated the hall in a Nigerian theme.

The formalities began with Father Henry being ushered out of the hall into the foyer. To the delight of the crowd, Father Henry entered the hall leading

a line of Nigerian dancers clad in bold colours of their native costume, glowing with bright fabrics, matched by their smiles and beaming brown eyes.

The music and food which accompanied the day was in keeping with Nigerian Tradition and full of flavour. Everyone enjoyed a mix of Nigerian and Australian food and beverages.

The many speeches were thankful and humorous, followed by some party goers changing into other Nigerian costumes. Father Henry looked resplendent in his red hat, that was a symbol of authority, tradition and culture.

It became very obvious to our community how very valued and loved Father Henry is with his many friends and his family from Tasmania.

Father Henry responded to his speeches in complimenting Lockhart and their welcome to this community and how fortunate he felt in being a part of this community.



From left: Judy Matusiak, Marie and Graham Gooden, Father Henry Ibe.

Australian Community and Church Summit 2019

NCLS Research and McCrindle Research are delighted to launch new findings on the future of Australian communities to help pastors, leaders and Christians understand and engage with their communities.

Keynote speakers

Dr Ruth Powell
Director of NCLS Research

Dr Ruth Powell will present results from the Australian Community Survey run by NCLS Research. This study reveals how religious and/or spiritual Australians are. Ruth will outline groups of Australians in how they approach spirituality and religion, as well as their openness to connecting with churches. These findings will provide a context for churches and insights for potential community engagement. Ruth is a Research Fellow at the Public and Contextual Theology Research Centre, Charles Sturt University.

Mark McCrindle
Director of McCrindle Research

Mark McCrindle will explore the future of Australian communities and give a demographic update, showing how Australia is growing now, and towards 2030. In his keynote, TEDx speaker Mark will reveal the latest trends on Australia’s population, cultural diversity and emerging generations and will present the social trends and communication strategies to engage in an era of digital disruption.

Simon Smart
Director of The Centre for Public Christianity

Simon Smart is the Executive Director of The Centre for Public Christianity. Drawing on experience in public communications, Simon will share insights and reflections on community and church relations.

For more information please contact
geoff@mccrindle.com.au
or info@ncls.org.au

Plus insights from local practitioners and mission leaders

Melbourne
8th November
7.30-9.30am
Whitley College, 50 The Avenue
Parkville VIC 3052

Brisbane
14th November
7.30-9.30am
QB Centre, 53 Prospect Rd
Gaythorne QLD 4051

Sydney
22nd November
7.30-9.30am
Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive
North Parramatta NSW 2151

Program

7:00am	Registrations
7:30am	Welcome
7:35am	Presentation Mark McCrindle
7:55am	Presentation Dr Ruth Powell
8:30am	Response by CPX Simon Smart
8:55am	Insights from practitioners plus Q&A with panel
9:25am	Close
9:30am	Networking

Ticket price

\$30.00

Includes light breakfast refreshments. Limited seats. Click the 'register here' button to reserve your seat.

Book of the Year makes fiction required reading

Trainee paramedics, aspiring lawyers and student maths teachers will be among those required to spend time reading a novel, under a new program at Australian Catholic University (ACU), which recognises the power of fiction to build empathy and improve psychological wellbeing.

The University will name a Book of the Year each year and will provide a free copy to every new student. First year courses across the university will draw on the cultural and social themes of the novel as a way of broadening student perspectives. The Book of the Year for 2020 will be *This Is My Song* by Richard Yaxley, a three-generation family story of a grandfather who survives Auschwitz and whose grandson revives a song written before the war.

Chair of the Academic Board Professor Margot Hillel, who leads the program, said the book was chosen as a way of stimulating students to reflect on the year’s theme of “Hope”.

“A good book will evoke an emotional response, as it asks readers to relate to the characters on the page and to live their lives vicariously. *This Is My Song* will do that for anyone who reads it,” she said.

Professor Hillel said the decision to introduce a Book of the Year was central to ACU’s arts and culture initiative and reflected a desire to see the liberal arts sit at the heart of the University’s identity.

The initiative will bring to the fore the value of reading fiction, as a means to develop empathy, engage with the world and forge community.

“It’s important that all students have a grounding in, and an understanding of, the liberal arts because it engages them with the humanity of people. There is evidence that shows that fiction-readers have higher degrees of empathy and that’s something we want for all our students.

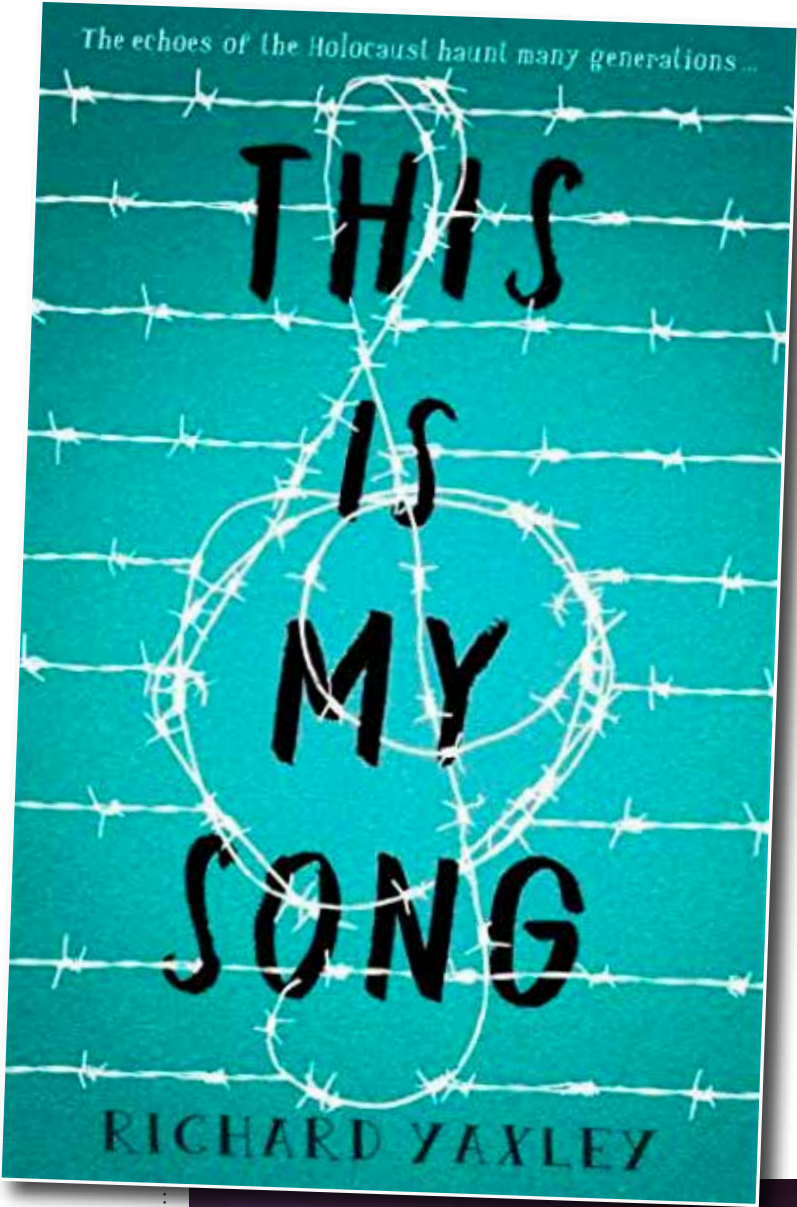
“If you are a health sciences student, for example, you are engaged with humanity on a physical level

“The initiative will bring to the fore the value of reading fiction, as a means to develop empathy, engage with the world and forge community.”

but reading fiction gives you an idea of the way other people think. It broadens your horizons and makes you aware of the individual worth of every person, which is very much aligned with ACU’s mission.”

An increasing body of evidence shows reading fiction increases empathy, improves pro-social behaviour and is beneficial for mental health. Reading fiction improves brain connectivity in regions associated with perspective-taking and story comprehension, setting readers up to have a better understanding of narratives of others’ lives.

Professor Hillel said the Book of the Year would also provide a point of connection for students across faculties, giving them a common experience and building community and culture across the university. **Sharing reading experiences are specifically associated with improved psychological well-being.**



Richard Yaxley

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OCTOBER 2019 - TOGETHER

The use of religion as an easy scapegoat

A common tendency to cast religion as particularly prone to cause war and political violence is not only dubious in itself, but dangerously deflects attention from political and cultural factors that are often more significant, argues leading philosopher Professor Tony Coady.

Professor Coady will give a public lecture this month scrutinising the role of religion in violent conflict and questioning the use of religion as an easy scapegoat for political and social conflicts.

“We have this obsession with religion, nowadays specifically Islam as a cause of terrorism, and it has often lead us to overlook or underestimate dangers like right-wing extremism and white supremacy,” he said.

Professor Coady said casting religion as particularly prone to cause violence was not only unfair to the majority of believers but also tended to conceal the real causes of violence and made conflicts harder to resolve.

“There are certainly occasions in which religion has played a part, sometimes a significant part, in the outbreak of various forms of violence but our presumptions about it are obscuring the way other factors are involved. Many of the worst massacres in history, the worst terrorist acts, have been committed by people with no religion or even with hostility to religion: the Nazi Holocaust, Stalinist and Maoist communism, Pol Pot’s slaughters. Even democratic fervour can play its part.” he said.

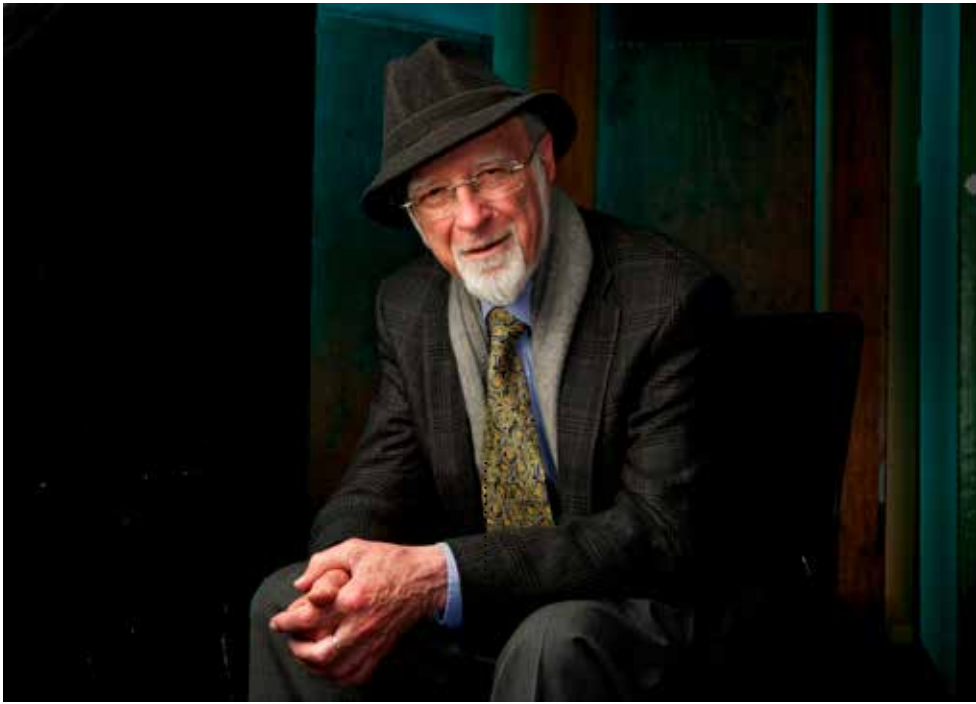
Professor Coady said religion was

“Casting religion as particularly prone to cause violence was not only unfair to the majority of believers but also tended to conceal the real causes of violence and made conflicts harder to resolve.”

too often assumed to have an inherent, distinctive, and possibly unique tendency to promote violent acts.

“But a number of studies, for instance of terrorists from Islamic backgrounds show that these foot soldiers know very little about Islam. Their grievances are not primarily driven by religion as such. What seems to be behind a great deal of such conflicts are identity issues. They identify themselves, for example, very strongly with people who have been invaded, bombed and attacked and they are driven to respond with violence.”

Another contention about the danger of religion is that, even if it plays no part in causing a war or political violence it makes that violence worse, prolonging conflicts and intensifying brutality.



Professor Tony Coady

“The idea is that once religion gets involved, the conflict becomes fanatical and lasts longer and becomes more brutal. That is certainly plausible in some respects, there’s no doubt there are religious fanatics. But fanaticism is a complex phenomenon with many roots, and religion is not the only thing that can produce fanaticism. Some of the most extreme and long-lasting wars in history have had nothing to do with religion.”

Professor Coady said the most sustained contemporary conflicts were also not based on religion. “The US has now been involved in Afghanistan for the longest war in their history, and it shows little sign of ending. It’s not religion that makes America press on and on. It’s external political issues and a huge element of national militarist pride.”

Even major historical conflicts such as the European “Wars of Religion” in the 16th to 18th centuries are now being re-examined as often having more to do with political conflicts, such as dynastic

ambition, than religious beliefs.

Religion is increasingly marginalised and regarded as a social negative, a situation that has understandably been aggravated by the ghastly child abuse scandals and church leaders abusing their power, said Professor Coady. But he warned while caution and disillusion about religious institutions was understandable, the scapegoating of religion would not reduce violence.

“As religion has declined, we have begun to think of it in tremendously simplistic ways. People cast it as the cause of all manner of evils. When they do that, they obscure the real causes, like political ideology and political advantage.”

Professor Tony Coady is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy at the University of Melbourne; Honorary Fellow in the Dianoia Institute of Philosophy and the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry at the Australian Catholic University, and Honorary Fellow in the Uehiro Centre, Oxford.

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Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance

With the OMG Bush Band

Date: 30 November 2019, 7 pm

Where: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Mutsch Street, Lavington

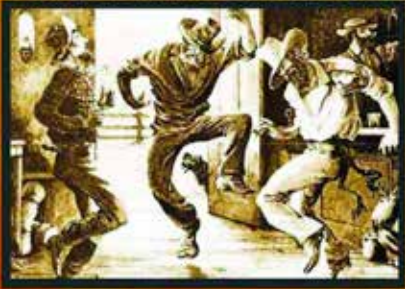
What: Bush-dancing, games, prizes, etc.

BYO: Supper, drinks; coffee/tea provided.

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

More info: Phone (02) 6025 1784

Tickets available at the door.



**Proceeds go to
Esencia Cafe, Lavington**

(National Association of Catholic Families)



Pathway to Peace

*Finding Hope & Healing
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This DVD & discussion program will help participants:

- Work through the emotional upheaval of separation and divorce
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- Discover a deeper understanding of God's love for them in their situation
- Gain wisdom and comfort from experts and others who share their experience

Five evenings commencing: Tuesday 29 October,
& 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November 2019

Time: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm

Fee: \$5.00 per Session

Venue: Marian Room, Sacred Heart Church, Warrambol St, Griffith (at end of old school building, turn left and up ramp)

Attendance at all Sessions is necessary

Bookings Essential

Contact: Sister Theresa Foley RSM,
Ph: 0429 661 401
email: srtfoley@gmail.com

Facilitators: Sister Theresa and other support people.

(Sister Theresa has ministered with separation and divorce for several years facilitating programs of grief and recovery to parents and families.)

New Podcast series aims to help in Figuring out Families

It's in the family we learn the skills of living together. We first learn that we are loved, understood, wanted and cared for, and in most cases it's in the family we are formed to be who we are.

But our biggest hurts, failures and tragedies can also occur within the family.

For most of us we have to learn as we go!
For over 70 years *The Majellan* has provided advice, shared stories of family life and helped family members deal with the problems that arise. We've helped thousands with their family issues.
With the introduction of the podcasts titled *Figuring out Families* Majellan hopes to reach a new audience, especially at a time when being a family seems to be harder than ever.
The new podcasts feature prominent people and expert guests who discuss issues faced by families and offer advice and insights on what each of us can do to help our families to be the best family they can be.

In our first episode we are pleased to welcome Denis Fitzgerald, outgoing Executive Director of Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV).
As a peak body for Catholic community services in Victoria CSSV supports and enhances the work of service and justice of member organisations.
Denis talks about the issues and challenges facing families today, the main causes of family breakdown, and how it's contributing to an increased problem in local communities and society generally.
Figuring out Families podcast series is available from most podcast services and on Spotify.

Visit:
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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



© Catholic Playground

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:



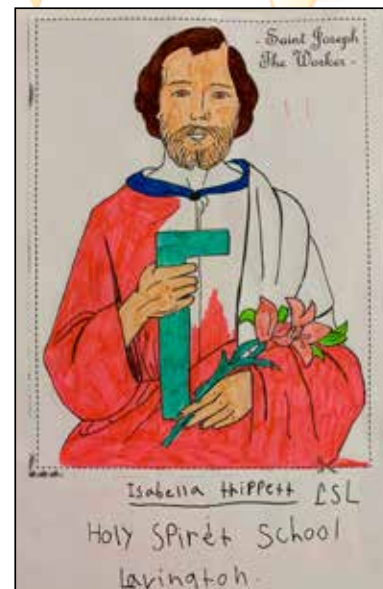
- St. **Therese** of the Child Jesus
- Guardian **Angels**
- St. **Francis** of Assisi
- St. **Bruno**
- Our Lady of the **Rosary**
- St. **John** XXIII
- St. **Callistus** I
- St. **Teresa** of Avila
- St. **Ignatius** of Loyola
- St. **Luke**
- St. **Paul** of the Cross
- St. **John Paul** II
- St.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

Beautiful art from Year 1 at Holy Spirit School in Lavington

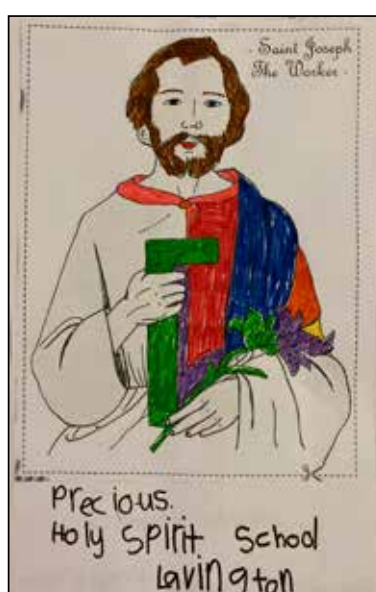
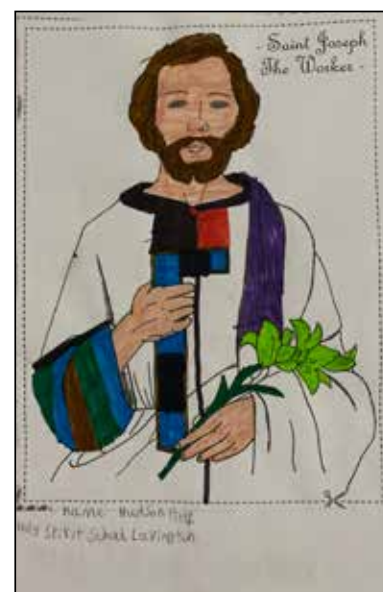


A huge thank you to the students for their amazing effort in creating these masterpieces!

Keep your eye out in the mail for a special prize pack for your huge effort!



We love receiving your coloured picture, word search or joke ideas. Don't forget to include your name, age and school.

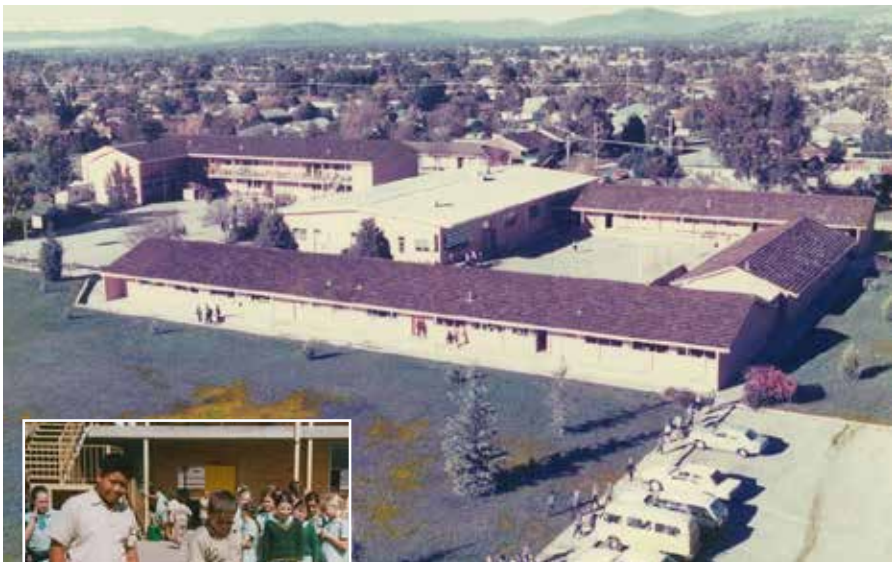


St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton

Lots of fun was had at the Term 3 Disco at St Jospheh's Primary School in Leeton!



Holy Spirit School, Lavington



Holy Spirit School are celebrating their 50th Anniversary next year. To get us ready they will be sharing memories every Thursday on their Facebook page.



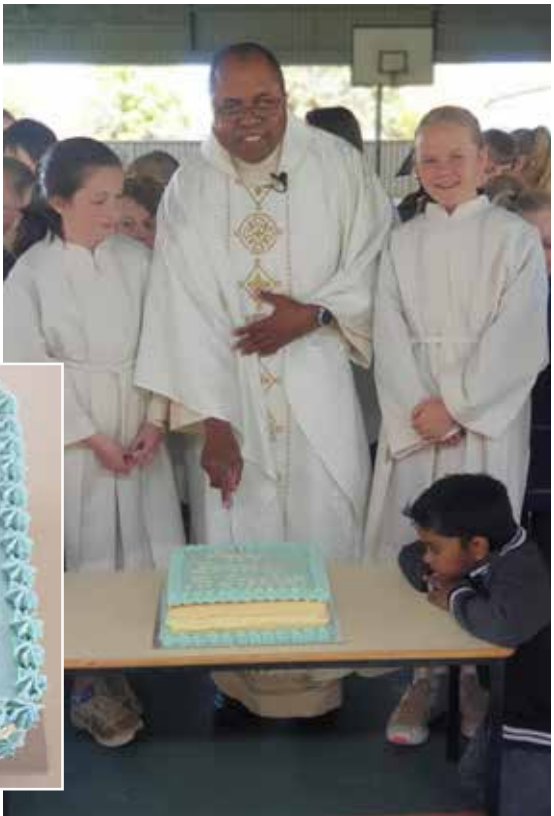
Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion were celebrated last term. Congratulations to the students who have received the Sacrament.



St Joseph's Primary, Finley

On the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul the Year 5/6 students at St Jospheh's Primary in Finley led the school in a mass. They also sang happy birthday to Fr. Stephen and helped him eat his birthday cake at recess after mass.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



St Michael's Primary School's Kindergarten enjoyed their Footy Colours Day.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga



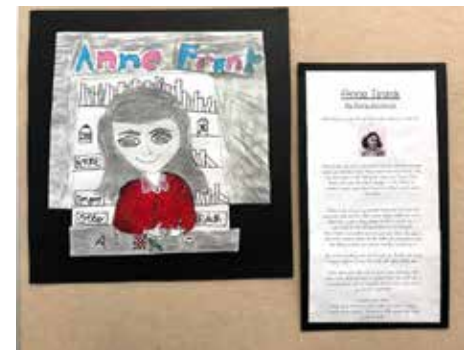
Thank you to all who supported the Year 6 cake stall by donating items to sell or allowing your children to purchase from the stall. The Year 6 students will now be putting on their thinking caps on to decide what they will buy with the money raised, as a farewell gift.



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga Wagga

Year 4 showcased their work in portraiture and biography writing at their Archibald Prize Exhibition.

St Joseph's Primary have some budding artists in our midst!



St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

The students at St Joseph's Primary School enjoyed an amazing time at the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory show. The students loved it and there were lots of laughs.



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga Wagga

Sacred Heart Primary School in Wagga came up with a great way to finish off the term by hosting a Teachers vs Year 6 day!



Book launched in Albury

At a recent book launch at St. Patrick's, Albury on October 5 2019, author Dr. Wanda Skowronska spoke about her new book *'Angels, Incense and Revolution'*.

She recalled that the 1960s era - with its Holdens, trams and Bex powders - was a defining time for Australian Catholicism, 'with its Irish hymns, breezy hope, baby boomers, 'new Australians', sodalities and tombola - and a looming cultural revolution'. This book is full of gratitude to the teaching nuns and brothers, and tries to capture some of the spiritual and social ambience of those times, so poignant, so unforgettable - a first-hand testimony for those who lived through it and for those who did not.

A beautiful journey into the past – the babyboomer years of peace and prosperity – captures the atmosphere of our schooldays with warmth and optimism. The dislocation and trauma experienced by many refugee



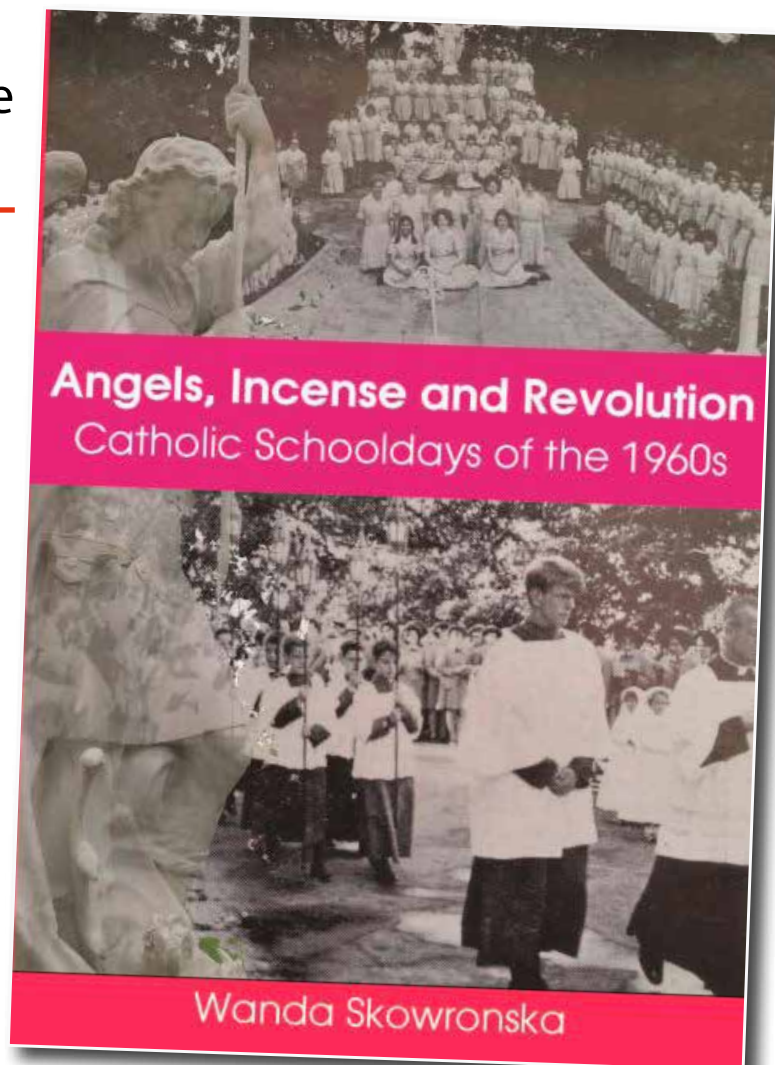
The O'Brien family who were part of the audience at the launch of 'Angels, Incense and Revolution'.

families is analysed with honesty and humour. Writing style is personal and not sugar-coated. While not agreeing fully with her conclusions about the Church, I can understand how her experience of life has led her to them. I recommend this book to all who enjoy sharing the lives of others, especially Brigidine ex-students, baby boomers or the children of immigrants. - Dianne Mullin, President of the Brigidine College Randwick Ex-Students Association.

This is a 'must read' for all Brigidines. A fabulous journey back into the past, an era of fun, hope and happiness, which we were privileged to receive. - Maureen O'Connor, teacher, psychologist, ex-Brigidine student.

As I read Angels, Incense and Revolution, the memories came flooding back. Contrary to the general media picture, Wanda has nothing but praise for the dedicated, inspirational majority of religious who provided a rich education and a coherent Catholic worldview. - Michael Gilchrist, author of several books, including Daniel Mannix: Wit and Wisdom (2004).

A perfect insight into the Australian Catholic past, as seen from the inside, and how it suddenly vanished. - Professor James Franklin, Editor, Journal of the Australian Catholic Historical Society.



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CRA supports an increase in Newstart payments and urges no delay

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) urges the Government to heed the research findings from a wide range of social service specialists, peak bodies and industry associations, in relation to the shortcomings of Newstart and the Payment Integrity Bill.

CRA commends the research released this month by the Australian National University's Centre for Social Research which was joined by over 20 Catholic social service providers from across Australia. It identified that levels of poverty and financial stress have increased significantly among Newstart recipients over the past 25 years.

The Australian Council of Social Service's 2019 submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee identifies \$75 per week with indexation, as an urgent 'catch-up increase' to the base rate of Newstart – an extra \$10.71 a day.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures show that the cost of essentials such as housing, utilities and food have increased much more rapidly than CPI.

The Business Council of Australia's 2012 submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Adequacy of the Allowance Payment System for Jobseekers, stated that 'The rate of the Newstart Allowance for jobseekers ... may now be so low as to represent a barrier to employment.'

CRA supports an increase of at least \$75 per week for all recipients of Newstart; that payments be indexed against wages and price increases commensurate with community

standards and the cost of living; and that the Government not delay Newstart payments, as this may force people to exhaust modest savings during the wait-time for Newstart payments.

"CRA's commitment to human dignity means we are concerned for the wellbeing of all people who rely on Newstart and believe that the requests for a weekly increase of \$75 and a more appropriate indexing system for payments, are vital to reduce poverty and enable people who receive income support to live with dignity," said CRA President, Peter Carroll FMS.

CRA strongly supports the National Council of St Vincent de Paul Society's concerns over the *Social Services Legislation Amendment (Payment Integrity) Bill 2017* which will exacerbate the conditions in which people enter into poverty and long-term unemployment. National Council CEO, Mr Toby O'Connor, recently said, "The longer people are on Newstart, the more entrenched their poverty becomes. The



CRA President, Peter Carroll FMS

Payment Integrity Bill is going to make things even tougher."

"In light of the federal budget surplus announced earlier this month, we urge the Government to use the research findings and submissions of various experts to inform their decision-making for the long-term benefit of citizens and the preservation of human dignity," said Br Peter.

Take the time to step back from everyday distractions and rediscover... **your relationship!**

A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Varroville near Campbelltown.

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If you would like Worldwide Marriage Encounter brochures please see WWME website at www.org.au

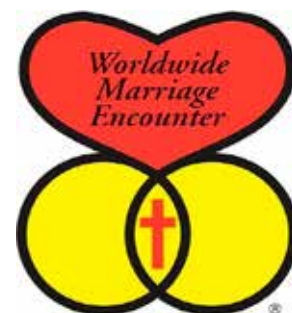
Thank you for your support of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.

In the love of Our Lord,
our sincere thanks,
Fr Mick Court,

Tracey and Richard Kaldausan
- Unit Coordinators and Ecclesial team

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Eastern Unit
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Henschke Primary celebrates the Feast of St Vincent de Paul

At the Term 3 Closing School Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, Mrs Cindy James (School Liason) presented a certificate of Appreciation to Henschke for their longtime and generous support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She also spoke briefly about St. Vincent.

Father Paddy blessed the new school candle which was made by the Sisters at the Jamberoo Abbey. This candle will be used at Masses and special Prayer Services and events.





Happy Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

September 27

St. Vincent de Paul was born at Pouy, France on April 24, 1581. He was ordained a priest on September 23, 1600. Vincent devoted himself entirely to the alleviation of the sufferings of the poor, and to that purpose established the Confraternities of Charity, later known as the Ladies of Charity, in 1617. In 1625 he founded the Congregation of the Mission, his community of priests and brothers. With Louise de Marillac, he co-founded the Daughters of Charity in 1633. Vincent died in Paris on September 27, 1660 and was canonized in 1737. Pope Leo XIII declared him patron saint of all works of charity.

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of the Sacred Heart



POSITION/S VACANT

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

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

The role of the manager consists of:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Co-ordinator: Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm

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

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Monica Mansour Operations Manager – Private Groups
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Outreaching to all those who have experienced a marriage breakdown and would like the Church to look into the validity of their marriage.

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Mass times across our Diocese

Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

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

Albury

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

Albury - North Albury

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

Albury - Lavington

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

Albury - Thurgoona

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

Berrigan

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

Coolamon

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

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

Corowa

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

Culcairn

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

Darlington Point

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

Finley

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

Ganmain

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

Griffith

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

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

Holbrook

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

Howlong

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

Jerilderie

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

Junee

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

Khancoban

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

Leeton

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

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

Lockhart

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

Mulwala

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

Narrandera

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

Tarcutta

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

The Rock

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

Tocumwal

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

continued on page 27...

Tumbarumba

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

Urana

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

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

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



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

- 1 October 1952 Mgr Thomas Ignatius Barry
- 3 October 1962 Fr J Bede McDonell
- 5 October 1905 Fr Joseph Michael Ryan
- 6 October 1974 Fr John Patrick Hanrahan
- 9 October 1892 Fr Michael O'Leary
- 11 October 1939 Bishop Joseph Wilfrid Dwyer
- 18 October 1982 Mgr John Harold Larkins
- 24 October 1924 Fr Francis William Hartigan
- 31 October 1896 Fr Patrick McCabe
- 31 October 1996 Fr Patrick Peter Ford

May these and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



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Family reflections for: October

7th October - Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus' teaching about divorce and remarriage can be a challenging one for many people. The Church continues to uphold the strong and positive teaching of Jesus that God intends for a man and woman to make a lifelong commitment to one another in the Sacrament of Marriage. Many of us, however, know people whose marriage has not been a lifelong commitment. The example of Jesus teaches us that we are called to act with compassion and love in our relationships with all, and especially when people are hurting because of difficulties in their relationships. Most importantly, we remember that when marriages thrive, it is a sign of God's grace at work.

As you gather as a family, talk about what it means to make a promise or a commitment to someone. Offer examples of promises that are fairly easy to keep. Read today's Gospel, Mark 10:2-16. Talk about examples of promises and commitments that might be more difficult to honor, like the marriage commitment that Jesus is asked about in this Gospel. Talk about how we need God to help us honor our commitment to love and care for each other. Jesus teaches that we should be like children before God, trusting God's promise to care for us and asking for his help to keep our commitments to love and care for others. Conclude by praying together that God will give his grace to us that we may honor our commitments to one another. Pray together Saint Ignatius of Loyola's prayer, the Suscipe.

Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5,6
Hebrews 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16

13th October - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children fluctuate between moments of deep, heartfelt gratitude and an attitude of entitlement. These fluctuations are normal. Among our tasks as parents is to help foster the gift of gratitude, particularly gratitude to God for all God's goodness to us.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:11-19. Make a poster showing some of the gifts from God to your family. Display this poster in a prominent place and, as a family, write a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God's goodness to you.

2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalm 98:1,2-3,3-4
2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19

20th October - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children nag because it works. Parents, like the judge in the parable, often get worn down by the persistence of their children asking for things large and small. Nagging is not a positive trait, to be sure. The confidence and the persistence behind this behavior, however, confidence in the goodness of the giver and the tenacity to stay in the relationship, are traits worth emulating in our relationship with God.

Read together Luke 18:1-8. Talk about appropriate ways to make needs and desires known to one another and to God in prayer. Recall that God wants to answer our prayers. As a family, offer your needs as prayers of petition to God.

Exodus 17:8-13 Psalm 121:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 Luke 18:1-8

27th October - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.

Sirach 35:12-14,16-18
Psalm 34:2-3,17-18,19, 23
2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18
Luke 18:9-14



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



Meet Sharon and Ollie

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

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

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

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

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

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



Please consider making a donation to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.



Strength and support

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



Clothing and essentials

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



Food in tough times

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



Help when bills are due

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



A place to rest and recoup

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

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



Hi Santa This is me



HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP THIS YEAR



1.3 MILLION
PEOPLE ASSISTED



365,164
BED NIGHTS



2 MILLION
HOT MEALS

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or call **13 18 12**
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