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In the Diocese of

Wagga Wagga

OCT 2020

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World Mission Month

inside

FRATELLI TUTTI 3

PLENARY COUNCIL 5

IN OUR SCHOOLS 16

MASS TIMES 20

Learn more about World Mission Month on page 7...

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Plenary Council

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



TOGETHER
IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

is published monthly, eleven times per year, and is available free at parish churches, schools, presbyteries and religious houses throughout the Wagga Wagga Diocese.

Publisher

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga
McAlroy House
205 Tarcutta Street
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

Editor/Designer

Karene Eggleton

Printer

The Riverina Media Group
Peter Street Wagga Wagga 2650

Submissions

TOGETHER would not be possible without the voluntary labour and cooperation of many contributors from within the diocese and beyond. Submissions for publication are welcome but not always guaranteed to be printed.

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Copy deadline

15th of the month prior to publication

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Annual Subscriptions

\$33 Australia
\$44 Overseas

What you or I want for the Church may well be exactly what God wants for the Church, however, while there is no doubt that God speaks to us in our hearts and through our lives, none of us can presume that what we want is God's will. For this reason, the whole Church in Australia is involved in a process of discernment to determine whether our voice and/or that of others is revealing what God wants.

The reflection, submission and eventual publication of the responses of over 200,000 Catholics to the question 'What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?' was only the first stage of a process of discernment. Theological reflections on six themes that came out of and was based on the initial responses was a further development of this. A small team is now at work creating a working document or Instrumentum Laboris which integrates and sets in a context of solid ecclesiology and a theology of discernment material from the six discernment papers and from the Light on the Southern Cross (the Church's review of best practice governance).

As a person who has been involved in this process from the start, I can attest that the Church is certainly not a gathering of like-minded individuals. However, we are a communion of faith. By monitoring our own responses when we listen to others, we begin to understand who we are and what lies deepest in our hearts. Testing the spirit in these responses requires honesty, openness, and a willingness to recognise that I might not be right. As a part of this process, it is important to stay connected with various sincere, faith-filled groups where our ways of seeing things might be challenged.

I recently received and reviewed an early draft of the working document for the Plenary Council. Though it was still in need of work, I thought it was impressive. This

document seems to catch up the hopes and concerns that I have seen expressed. Many of the issues seem to be common across multiple people and perspectives, though different groups often have proposed quite different solutions. And it tries to express this as a part of the communion of faith gathered around Christ which we are. If the next version is even better, I look forward to seeing it.

We are grateful to Fr Bernie Thomas and Charlene Robson for the way that they provided opportunities for engagement with the Council, particularly in the Listening and Dialogue phase. I invite you to look for opportunities to continue this engagement as we approach the assemblies.

The Plenary Council, as it points the way forward for the Church in Australia, will help to identify issues that our diocese should address and propose guidelines for how this might be done. I expect that from it will come the agenda for our diocese for

the rest of my time here.

Six people from our diocese will be delegates at the Plenary Council: Edmund (Ed) Brown, Wendy Catrell, the Rector of the seminary, the Vicar General, the Vicar for Education (if we have one) and the bishop. There will be a commissioning of these delegates early next year.

I invite you to explore the plenary council website at:
www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au



Bishop Mark recently visited the Mt Erin Heritage Centre in Wagga Wagga.

Prayer Intention for October - Pray with Pope Francis

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility 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

APOSTOLIC LEADERSHIP OF PRAYER

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

A busy, Sunday morning at our North London parish. A request between Masses. "Please give me permission, Father, to do this certain thing (exactly what must remain private) if the church allows it." Another parishioner, known as a forthright character, chided the questioner: "What do you mean, if the church allows it! The church is all of us." But far from being ill-tempered, it was a lovely moment. Each felt a different warmth for their church.

We are invited to lift our eyes, our imaginations and our hearts, to something much greater; not as a distant prospect but as a present reality of which we're already part. At times it's too great for us to take in. Some of us refuse it because of the inconsistency

of those charged with leadership and responsibility. At other times, we suspect we're not worthy of it; that only the holy are qualified.

The full, active participation and leadership of the laity, sacramentally mandated in baptism, is not a devolved power! At times there can be an erroneous "power-culture" in the church, presenting as clericalism or hierarchicalism, which is at odds with what we're meant to be, all of us, in response to the One who came not to be served but to serve. So, together, let us pray!

David Stewart, SJ

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (United Kingdom)

Friendship and solidarity key themes in Pope Francis’ letter

A world that looks beyond a global pandemic with no roadmap can find one in Pope Francis’ new encyclical, which Archbishop Mark Coleridge says “is not just for believers but for the entire human family”.

Published on 4 October, the Pope’s third encyclical is entitled *Fratelli Tutti* (Brothers and Sisters All) – words taken from St Francis of Assisi, who the Pope says has inspired what he writes.

“It is a vision of the dignity of every human being from which flows the call to build a new culture of fraternity and dialogue,” said Archbishop Coleridge, president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

“In his previous encyclical *Laudato Si’* (Praise Be to You), Pope Francis spoke of care for our common home. Here he speaks of care for each other, the family that dwells together in the common home.”

Pope Francis writes early in the encyclical: “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity.

“Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.”

The Pope started work on the encyclical before COVID-19 struck. But he says that the need for local, national and international solidarity has become even more important now. The pandemic has created in many people a sense of the interdependence of communities and the fragility of human beings left to themselves.

“Once this health crisis passes, our worst response would be to plunge even more

deeply into feverish consumerism and new forms of egotistic self-preservation,” Pope Francis writes.

“God willing, after all this, we will think no longer in terms of ‘them’ and ‘those’, but only ‘us’.” Archbishop Coleridge said the current divisions and conflicts all around are a road to nowhere.

“The Holy Father speaks of ideologies that seek to divide rather than unite, policies that value certain people over others and economic systems that prioritise profit over people and the planet,” he explained.

Archbishop Coleridge noted that many of those whom Pope Francis describes as often undervalued or treated inequitably – women, older people, unborn children, people who are trafficked, Indigenous peoples, people with disability, migrants and refugees – are similarly those left on the margin or cast aside in Australia.

“In this country we may be tempted to think that the Pope is talking about elsewhere, but he’s not. True, he’s talking about the whole world – but he’s also talking about us,” the archbishop said.

“Pope Francis offers a grand yet simple vision of human interconnectedness. We’re all connected to each other in ways we scarcely imagine. Our task now is to work out what this means in practice as we look beyond the pandemic.

“In what he offers in this letter, the Pope can help with that. It’s impassioned yet tender, visionary yet practical, radical yet reasonable.”

Read *Fratelli Tutti* and access other material at:
www.catholic.org.au/fratellitutti

A PRAYER TO THE CREATOR

LORD, FATHER OF OUR HUMAN FAMILY,
YOU CREATED ALL HUMAN BEINGS EQUAL IN DIGNITY:
POUR FORTH INTO OUR HEARTS A FRATERNAL SPIRIT
AND INSPIRE IN US A DREAM OF RENEWED ENCOUNTER,
DIALOGUE, JUSTICE AND PEACE.
MOVE US TO CREATE HEALTHIER SOCIETIES
AND A MORE DIGNIFIED WORLD,
A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER, POVERTY, VIOLENCE AND WAR.

MAY OUR HEARTS BE OPEN
TO ALL THE PEOPLES AND NATIONS OF THE EARTH.
MAY WE RECOGNIZE THE GOODNESS AND BEAUTY
THAT YOU HAVE SOWN IN EACH OF US,
AND THUS FORGE BONDS OF UNITY, COMMON PROJECTS,
AND SHARED DREAMS. AMEN.

FRATELLI TUTTI
www.catholic.org.au/fratellitutti



L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, featured a front page headline about Pope Francis' new encyclical, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship". Free copies were distributed by volunteers at the end of the Angelus prayer in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 4, 2020. (CNS photo/ IPA/Sipa USA, Reuters)

“LET US DREAM, THEN, AS A SINGLE HUMAN FAMILY,
AS FELLOW TRAVELLERS SHARING THE SAME FLESH, AS
CHILDREN OF THE SAME EARTH WHICH IS OUR COMMON
HOME, EACH OF US BRINGING THE RICHNESS OF HIS OR
HER BELIEFS AND CONVICTIONS, EACH OF US WITH HIS
OR HER OWN VOICE, BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL.”

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Catholic Church supports SRE in public school education

The provision of Special Religious Education (SRE) has been integral to NSW public education since the Public Instruction Act 1880.

by Anna O'Dwyer
CCRESS Liaison Officer

It was, and remains, an important acknowledgement and reminder that education is centred on the child as a whole person, with family, culture, ethnicity, life experience, faith affiliation and spirituality together defining the character and identity of the child.

Recognising and providing for all these aspects of the child promotes mental health and respects human dignity. Further, Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that our children have a right to an education which respects their cultural identity and affiliation, and includes the development of a sense of responsibility towards others, and respect for cultural diversity. The Australian Curriculum General Capabilities state that students will communicate across cultures, consider and develop multiple perspectives and empathise with others. Certainly, children must know, understand and respect their own cultural identity before they can compare it to others.

At a time when children, for their essential well-being, need connection to their faith and culture like

never before, there have been recent, but not new, calls from the NSW Primary Principals Association, the NSW Secondary Principals Council, and the NSW Teachers Federation to remove SRE from Public School timetables, to simplify a crowded curriculum and give the time back to teaching. However, SRE time was never “taken away” from teachers. It has always been an integral part of NSW Public Education.

It is appropriate and right that the NSW Department of Education seek to streamline curriculum content and ensure that students are getting the best education that can be provided. Indeed, the Catholic Church, along with many other interested parties, is keen to hear about all the content which Principals and Teachers might decide is overcrowding our children’s days at school.

However, no attention should be taken from the learner at the midst of the education process. All parents have the right to choose that their child’s education includes a knowledge and understanding of their faith. It is, after all, this connection to their faith

and culture that guides ethical and moral choices. It forms an awareness of and respect for all cultures, as they see their buddies go off to their SRE or SEE class, and promotes harmony in the community. Classroom teachers who have developed a relationship with their students know that unless they are “seeing” the whole child, they are not teaching the whole child, nor is the child learning to capacity.

The Catholic Church supports parent/carer choice of SRE in class time for the thousands of Catholic families that send their children to public schools in NSW and call to both sides of politics to support the legislated right of parent/carers to continue to choose SRE as part of their children’s public school education.



Best Covid read?

The myth going around is that Covid-19 has given everybody more time for reading and recreation.

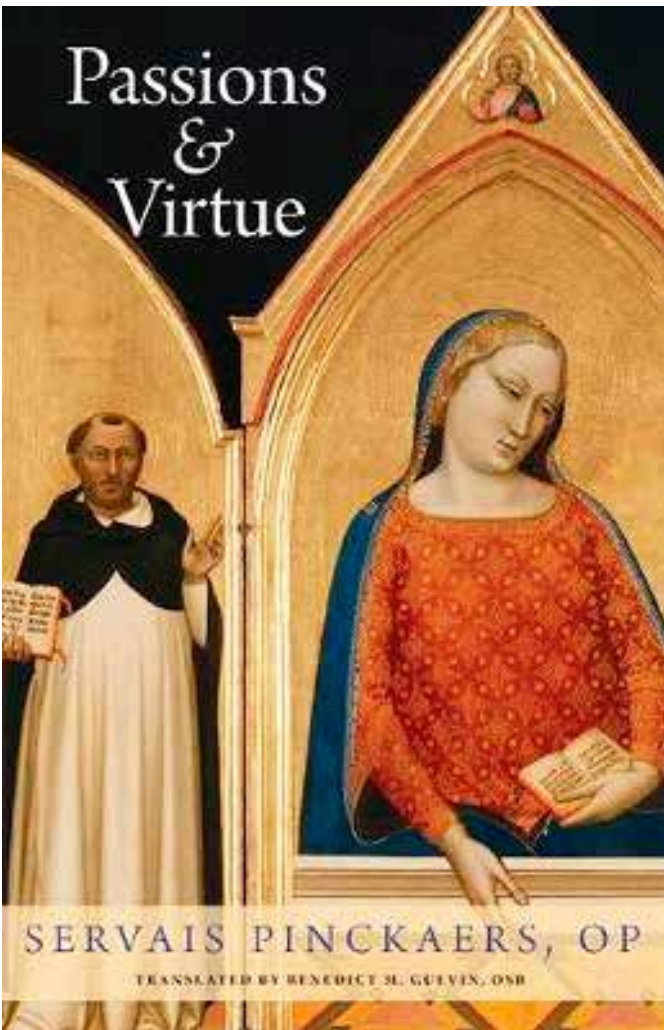
Reviewed by Fr Reece Beltrame

Unfortunately, as many of us know, that simply isn’t true, which was why I was so happy to discover that Father Servais Pinckaers’ latest and last book “Passions & Virtue” (he passed away two months after completing it) is well under 150 pages.

Despite the relatively compact size of the book, it took far longer to get through than expected due to the profound depth and clarity into his investigation of the integration of the emotions in Christian life. I found myself at each chapter, sometimes page by page, stopping to ponder on the human and divine truths therein.

Father Pinckaers has successfully conveyed the joy which is inherent in Christian life, while at the same time not shying away from the trials and crosses which are an inescapable part of life. The reader of this book will be led to think deeply on many of the common human emotions and experiences. Why does everybody on earth like the idea of love and yet the demands that love make of us are enormous – is love tyrannical? Which is the greater spiritual joy or sensible joy? Are the virtues joy filled or burdening? Is piety about obedience to law or following the prompting of the Holy Spirit? Is humour virtuous and what role can it play in Christian life? Is there a void in modern psychology in regards to virtue?

Some works of moral or spiritual philosophy are strictly for nerdy types but Father Pinckaers has written so beautifully that he has made it accessible to many, although a little nerdiness will greatly assist in the taking up of this fantastic read!



“Passions & Virtue” can be purchased at www.bookdepository.com

Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

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

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Dates locked in for Plenary Council assemblies

The two assemblies for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will be held in Adelaide from October 3-10, 2021, and in Sydney from July 4-9, 2022.

The new dates mean that the celebration of the Plenary Council has effectively moved 12 months from the original plan of a first assembly in October 2020 and a second assembly in June/July 2021.

Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said the confirmation of the specific dates will help in the formulation of a revised program of preparation for Council delegates, who were announced in March, and for the whole Catholic community.

Archbishop Costelloe said the bishops' preference to hold the second assembly in April 2022, announced last month, had to be revisited.

"The confluence of a number of

events in April 2022, including the New South Wales school holidays, Easter in the Latin Rite and Easter in the Eastern Rite, meant that the plan to hold the second assembly then was unworkable," he said.

"The one-year change to our initial timeline affords each of us the opportunity for a more extended period of individual and collective discernment leading into the first assembly than we would otherwise have had."

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said that this time will be utilised for all people to re-engage with the journey of discernment toward the Council assemblies after the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A renewed engagement will take



place in a societal context that's been altered by the pandemic," she said.

"The recently-published discernment papers were finalised in the midst of the pandemic. They are a key step in the process of discernment and preparation for all of us. The time and space between now and the first assembly, now in October 2021, enables deeper reflection, dialogue and consideration of how we've all been affected by recent global events."

Archbishop Costelloe said prayer, dialogue and discernment have been foundational pillars of the Plenary Council journey and will continue to be so.

"I encourage everyone to read the discernment papers and to take some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to continue to guide our path toward the assemblies and beyond," he said.



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Fr Mahedy celebrates his 80th birthday

When Bishop Mark visited the Culcairn Parish recently he gifted Fr Mahedy, a fellow Hawks tragic, with a mask which he proudly wore to celebrate his 80th birthday in Albury.

We wish you all the best for your 80th year Fr Mahedy and hope you enjoyed your spectacular tiramisu birthday cake with your family.



Fr Mahedy (front) with his sisters Catherine and Pauline and his brother John celebrating his 80th birthday.



Ryneharts gets a makeover

Long time Together supporter, Jackie Gash, has chosen the pandemic to change her store's name and location.

Ryneharts had been established for over 60 years providing boutique style ladies fashion with a personalised service.

Jackie wanted to include a broader demographic and opted for a name change, a location change and a funky new look. Jackie's new store is called *Dressed by Jackie* and is located at 202 Baylis St Wagga Wagga next door to Target, just across the road from the old premises.

The new store has been met with many positive responses from customers who love the current spring and summer collection.

Jackie is always dressed immaculately and loves nothing more than helping women transform their look.

She hopes that during these trying times people can be encouraged to shop locally and get a friendly personalised service not available in online shopping. *Dressed by Jackie* stocks a lot of Australian made



Jackie Gash in her new business, *Dressed by Jackie*

clothing for casual, cocktail and formal wear, race day outfits, unique handmade jewellery, handbags and much more.

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www.facebook.com/DressedByJackie**







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World Mission Month

October 1 marks the beginning of World Mission Month, a time when Catholics all over the world join together to support and celebrate global missionary work. It also marks the feast day of St Therese of Lisieux, the patron of the missions.

“October is an opportunity for us to give particular attention to the work of mission,” says Catholic Mission National Director Fr Brian Lucas.

This year World Mission Month in October focuses on the essential work of priests, religious and lay missionaries in Cambodia, supporting people with disability and their families.

“Through our prayerful support and solidarity, and through our generosity we are able to make available resources to those mission churches,” says Fr Brian.

“To help spread the gospel, and also to be of service to people who are often very vulnerable.”

Dara's story

Dara was only 11 years old when he lost his hand and most of his eyesight when he picked up an unexploded ordnance he found on his family farm. Concerned about being able to provide the special care and education now needed, Dara's parents were grateful when the Arrupe Centre, established by Bishop Enrique 'Kike' Figaredo Alvargonzalez, offered their son a home and the support he needs. Now, two years on, Dara has been able to learn Braille, enjoys going to school and playing with his friends at the home. There are many more children like Dara who rely on the life-changing support provided by Bishop Kike and the Arrupe Centre. Your gift today can help the Centre reach out to children and young adults with disability and help empower them to create a bright future.

Chen's story

At just 16 years old, Chen's life changed in a moment when he stood on a landmine that took both of his legs. With his family already struggling to make ends meet, they were unsure if they would be able to provide the necessary care for Chen. Thankfully, Bishop Kike, offered a lifeline, which has opened up many doors for Chen. The Arrupe Centre, established by Bishop Kike in north-western Cambodia in 2001, has been a home for many people, especially children, with disability – helping to empower them and offer opportunities they might otherwise not have. However, there are many more children like Chen that rely on the support and care that the Arrupe Centre provides. By donating today, you can help restore dignity and empower people living with a disability, like Chen.

The impact of the Khmer Rouge regime

from 1975 to 1979, and the nearly twenty years of civil war that followed, is still felt today. Buried, unexploded landmines still cause accidents across the country today. Distressingly, although many organisations are working to clear these landmines, on average, 100 accidents and casualties still occur each year – and there is little support provided for these people. Your donation will help Bishop Kike and the Arrupe Centre continue to make a difference in Cambodia today.

The Arrupe Centre provides children and youth, like Chen, with shelter, food and healthcare, education and career opportunities to help empower them and build their future. The Centre works in conjunction with the Outreach program, another Church-run mission project in Battambang, which provides practical support - such as food, microloans, scholarships for the siblings, and repair of homes - to the families of the Arrupe residents. Without this critical support, many families would struggle to provide adequate care and support for their loved ones. Your support will help them reach out to the most vulnerable in communities like Chen's around the world.

To donate visit:
www.catholicmission.org.au



Dara (left) with Chen at the Arrupe Centre.



Bishop Enrique 'Kike' with children at the Arrupe Centre.



Idyllic Samoa holds hidden struggles

When you imagine what it might be like in the Pacific Island of Samoa, no doubt there are images of a crystal blue ocean and palm trees dotting a pristine beach.

by Lauren Hichaaba and Tina Newton

In fact, this is true as Samoa is bursting with an abundance of natural beauty.

As in most Pacific countries, the people with their welcoming spirit and contagious smiles are even more beautiful than the surrounding landscape. The deeply traditional society prides itself on its hospitality and welcoming nature. The concept of ‘Alofa’, Love, pervades every aspect of their life.

Within this seemingly idyllic reality there are, however, serious struggles in Samoa and this is particularly true for young people. There are very limited employment opportunities and many young people leave their beloved homeland in order to support their families in neighbouring New Zealand and Australia.

Over the past forty years, the Salesians of Don Bosco have been working alongside the local community to improve the lives and futures of young people throughout Samoa. The Salesians work on both major islands of Samoa, Upolu and Savai’i, with their work primarily focused on schools and parishes.

Don Bosco Technical Centre (DBTC), the first Salesian school in Samoa, was opened in 1989 on the ‘main’ island of Upolu, located on the outskirts of the capital of Apia. The mission of the school was to offer a ‘second chance’ education to those that have not been successful in mainstream schooling. Today it has a wonderful reputation throughout

the country for offering a high-quality technical education that is supported by Samoa Qualifications Authority (SQA) courses.

It has been an important year for DBTC as for the first time in its history welcomed the enrolment of female students. The newly enrolled female students have been excelling in traditional trade classes offered by the school. This year has also seen the introduction of a new hospitality course, offering all students the opportunity to study and learn skills including sewing and cooking which will provide them with job opportunities within the tourism industry. The addition of these courses has ensured that the school provides a well-rounded education to their graduates.

On the remote island of Savai’i, Don Bosco College and Vocational Technical Centre (DBCVTC) was opened in 2011. This school is very important for the future livelihoods of young people, as Savai’i is essentially still comprised of subsistence farmers. There is a growing tourism business on the island however many of the employees are hired from abroad due the lack of qualified personnel in Samoa. DBCVTC is giving young people an opportunity to gain qualifications in Cert.1 Hospitality so they can find employment within the tourism industry and are not forced to leave their families and home.

Don Bosco College is the only Catholic High School on the entire island. Each morning the school bus fires up its noisy



The Don Bosco Co-educational College and Vocational Centre, Salelologa

engine at 4:00am to circumnavigate the entire island to pick up students. Like DBTC, it has earned an excellent reputation for a sound academic education and students happily, albeit wearily, will travel up to two hours each way to attend. Both schools are run in the style of St. John Bosco, they are known and respected for the holistic education, encompassing – mind, body and soul.

Included in providing a holistic education is honouring, celebrating and cultivating pride in the student’s rich Samoan heritage and culture. One example of this is evidenced in the participation of the DBTC students joining in the ‘Fautasi’ (long boat) race each year. The school is known as the team to beat in this traditional race. Their captain, Ms. Zita Martel, has instilled in students over many years the importance of ‘Fautasi’, to build as one. This meaning reflects the teamwork, hard work and dedication that is required by each and every team member in order to be successful.

Although Samoa has remained free of Coronavirus infections, they have not been left untouched by the devastation it has caused. The pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the already fragile Samoan economy, boarder closures have crippled the tourism industry of which many families rely on for their livelihood.

The longer the Covid-19 crisis persists the greater long-lasting effects on the whole community, especially young people which make up a large proportion of the 200,000 population. With many students finding it difficult to pay schools fees, the schools in turn struggle to find the funds to pay teachers etc. We are so thankful to the ongoing benefactors who enable the good work of both the schools to continue.

‘Fautasi’ the sentiment ‘to build as one’ is very much applicable to the entire educative work of the Salesians of Don Bosco throughout Samoa. Over the past forty years of Salesian presence in Samoa, it has been through a unified vision of local and missionary Salesians to work for the empowerment of young people. Through their hard work, persistence and determination they have been able to establish these schools that genuinely offer young people and their families a chance at a better life.

For further information, please contact Tina at the Salesian Missions office on (03) 9377 6060 or visit www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au/



The Don Bosco Technical Centre in Alafua which caters for young men aged 16-22.

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Archbishop from Beirut: We want to know the truth about the explosion



Lebanon has been experiencing a series of dramatic shocks recently, political, economic and most recently physical. Who cares at the very fabric of Christian society? Does the international community appreciate the true value of Lebanon for the Middle East?

The pontifical foundation ACN visited Lebanon last week and interviewed Archbishop Paul Abdel Sater, Maronite Archbishop of Beirut.

Your Excellency, on 4 August 2020 there was an enormous blast that occurred at the port. Where were you at the time of the explosion?

I was in my office. I didn't hear the sound of it. I felt this push of air, hot air coming in through the windows which were broken. I saw all the glass around me. My desk was covered with glass. The floors in my office were also covered with glass. The door had been blown away. So I knew there had been an explosion. I didn't know what really happened, but I realized that it was an explosion. The whole chancery was very badly damaged. No windows, no doors, nothing. Everything was coming down. An older priest had injuries to his face. And another employee, who was down on the first floor, was blown a distance of four meters from where he stood. The big door of the chancery fell on him, broke his ribs and his skull. But thank God he's alive. And we lost one other employee in another building. He was killed by the blast.

Your Excellency, the greatest damage occurred to the Christian quarter. Why was the Christian quarter so particularly damaged by this bomb blast?

Because the closest area is inhabited by Christians around the port. They used to come from the

mountains and stay around the port for work, it was a way to earn their living. And gradually they created their own streets, their own regions, areas. So most of the area around the port is inhabited by Christians. And it seems also that the way the blast went off, it was directed toward this area.

How would you describe the emotional climate at the moment?

The days following the blast, people were thanking God, because they were still alive; but they were also sad because they had lost loved ones and their homes. They feel, all of them, that a miracle happened. It's true, we lost more than two hundred and thousands of injured people. Why? Because if you see the destruction, the amount of destruction, there should be more than 200 people killed. And everyone has a story how he or she was saved, how they left the place where they should have been, as if pushed by someone and they were saved from being killed or injured.

Afterwards people started asking the question, the obvious question, 'why did this happen?' And you could feel a sense of anger, not hatred, but anger, why is it happening again? When is it going to stop? Now, people are thankful because they have been helped by other people to get back to their homes. But they keep asking the same question: why? Who did it? We want to know the truth, especially those who lost their loved ones, who were killed or disappeared.



Mgr. Paul Abdel Sater, Maronite Archbishop of Beirut. Photographer: CRTN/David Jones. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

What is the Church doing practically today to help the families and to try and begin lives again?

The parish priests have been working night and day for eight weeks. They have been visiting people and checking if someone needs help. We are trying to repair their damaged homes. We are also trying to provide food for them if it's needed. We undertake visits to encourage people who have been hit by the explosion and who wish to stay in their homes.

Saint John Paul II said: Lebanon is a message. If Lebanon is not able to resolve its challenges, what are the potential implications for the whole region and therefore how important is Lebanon for this whole region?

It is true, and the proof is that on the second day after the explosion, we had people coming from all areas of Lebanon, Christians, Muslims, young people, they all worked together to clean the damaged area to help people get their things out of their destroyed homes. So, it is true, Lebanon is a message. You cannot find such solidarity between people, but in Lebanon, yes. Now, if Lebanon loses that it will mean that fanaticism will increase in the area. And when you have fanaticism, there is destruction because people will not see the human person in front of them. They will see someone who is against them, their enemy, but not the human person. What's good in Lebanon until now is that we are still able to see a person in front of us, not his ideology, not his ideas, not his convictions, but a person who needs to be loved, to be cared for.

With whom can we live if this is lost?

Until now, people who wish to live in freedom were always able to come to Lebanon and experience this freedom. Sadly, I believe the international community does not appreciate the true value of Lebanon. It's rare to find it in the Middle East and Lebanon is this country and it needs to be preserved by the international community.

"The people in Lebanon are people who need love, they need to be cared for."

**To donate to ACN's emergency appeal for Lebanon visit:
<https://aidtochurch.org/Lebanon>**



Muslim and Christian youth working together. Photographer: Maria Lozano. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

Crazy Hair Day at Henschke Primary helped to raise funds for Catholic Mission

Henschke held a fun, fund-raising day for Missions to replace their traditional Mission stalls. Each student contributed a gold coin to be part of "Crazy Hair Day". It was too hard to choose the best as they were all so terrific with their creative parents and children going 'crazy'! Henschke raised \$720 to support Catholic Mission. Well done!



Even Father Paddy, Father Anto and Michael Perry joined in on Crazy Hair Day while celebrating Mass with the Year 5 students.



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COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

**Effective
Friday 24 July 2020**

1. Covid-Safe Business

All Parishes must comply with the NSW Government requirement to complete a Covid-Safe Plan and register as a Covid-Safe Business.

2. Maximum Attendance

Places of worship are limited to 100 people, subject to the one person per four square metre rule (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers).

3. Hygiene practices

- Sanitisation of hands before entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.
- Wiping down of pews and common areas at conclusion of Mass or gathering.
- Priest and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to purify hands with sanitiser before and after offering Holy Communion.
- Limit the use of communal books. Ensure they are cleansed between use.

4. Register of people upon entering the church, hall, prayer room, etc.

- Name, phone number and/or email to be recorded
- To be kept in a safe place (respecting privacy laws) for at least 28 days.
- Funeral directors to keep attendance register for funerals.

5. Eucharist

- Holy Communion in the hand only.

- Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- No touching at the sign of peace.
- No offertory procession.
- No congregational singing.
- No collection plates are to be used, but money/envelopes placed at collection points.

6. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

Normal pastoral practice continues including Communion to sick persons in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes.

7. Anointing of the Sick

- Normal Pastoral Practice continues.
- Anointing of the sick in hospitals, aged care homes and private homes if permitted to enter.
 - If the person has COVID-19, please consult the Bishop's Office.

8. First Penance & First Holy Communion

Normal Pastoral Practice continues, respecting liturgical and pastoral protocols.

9. Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga is to be delayed until term 4. If all is clear at that time, Parish Priests will have delegated authority for Confirmations for this year.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga



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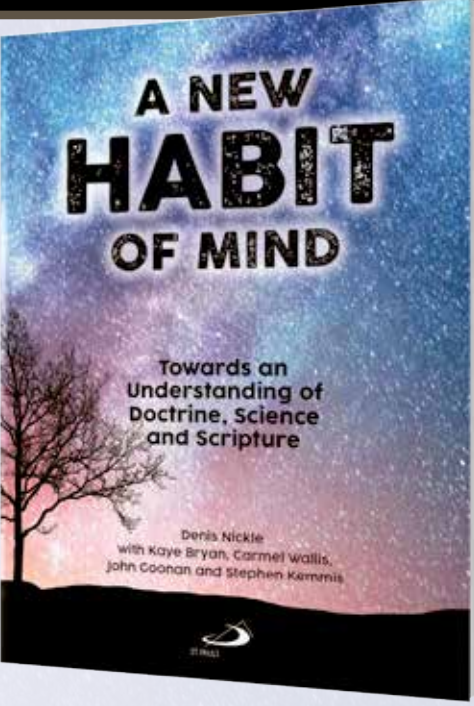


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Denis Nickle
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Many Catholics, particularly parents, teachers and others involved in faith formation, can be disconcerted by advances in knowledge and scientific developments which appear to conflict with their own recollection or understanding of Catholic doctrine.

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- Diocese of Wagga Wagga -

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SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

We offer individual, couples or family counselling sessions to help support you to achieve a better sense of wellbeing. This is available for all people at any age of their life.

Our Mental Health Nurse, can also assist with community based nursing support for people who are experiencing severe or complex mental health
(*Service limited to Griffith, Leeton and Narrandera)

LET US SUPPORT YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN?

Your Centacare NDIS coordinator will work with you to:

- » Find quality supports
- » Link you with the right providers
- » Assist with coordination of a range of supports tailored for your needs
- » Build your capacity to self manage and reach set personal goals
- » Provide you with support and encouragement with social and community access

SUPPORT FOR WORK STRESS

We can talk with your workplace to help you develop an Employment Assistance Program (EAP), which offers short term counselling sessions for staff to talk through difficulties that they might be facing.

Your workplace doesn't offer EAP? That is okay, call us to book an appointment with one of our counsellors.

SUPPORT WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIP, OR A SEPARATION?

We offer individual, couples or family counselling sessions to help support you to strengthen and improve your relationships. We also offer family group conferencing which helps provide best outcomes for children based on their current needs. Have you separated? We offer mediation services for parents who have separated and want to work out a plan on how to co-parent. We can also support you with navigating the Family Law systems through counselling and advocacy.

SCHOOL WELLBEING PROGRAM

For our children to think right, they must first feel right. Our School Wellbeing Practitioners work with students, families and school staff within Catholic Diocese to help children feel right and maximise their learning. Referral through school required.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

Our settlement, Engagement and Transition Support team (SETS), can help you to feel better connected and supported in your community.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CARERS?

We offer a wide range of parenting education groups that focus on building skills and knowledge so you can tackle those tricky parenting moments and enjoy a positive relationship with your children.

In whichever way you support your family - by being a parent, grandparent, carer or support person, one of our great groups could help you improve your relationships.

Residents urged to take part in Vinnies Community Sleep Out

Where there's a will, there's a way. That is the thinking behind this year's St Vincent de Paul Society's annual community sleep out event.

by **Talia Pattison**

As with most things this year, events have either had to be cancelled or done a little differently.

The latter is the theory Vinnies has gone with, coming up with a new way to host its community sleep out event in Leeton.

Rather than getting together in groups for the fundraiser for the organisation, Leeton shire residents are now encouraged to "rough it" at home.

Whether that be sleeping on the couch for the night, rolling out the swag in the backyard or even sleeping in your car while it's tucked away in the garage, the ideas are endless.

The idea behind the community sleep out is to raise money for Vinnies work in local communities offering food, clothing, temporary accommodation and support with bills to people experiencing hardship.

Leeton volunteer with Vinnies Brian Troy is preparing to roll his swag out

on October 23 for the event.

"I think it's something easy we can all be doing from our homes to support Vinnies," he said.

"You can make it into a bit of fun for the whole family as well.

"It's a good chance to support the work Vinnies does.

"I think if the pandemic has shown us anything, it's that we can still find ways to do good for the community."

The idea behind these community sleep outs is to give participants a small taste of what it is like to sleep rough.

Currently more than 116,000 people in Australia go to bed each night without a safe and secure place to live.

NSW accounts for over a third of the national total with well over 37,000 people experiencing homelessness.

You can register to take part and donate at www.vinnies.org.au/communitysleepout



Brian Troy from the St Vincent de Paul Society in Leeton prepares for the community sleepout.
Photo: Talia Pattison



Vinnies

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- Corowa Shop** 143 Sanger St Corowa
- Griffith Shop** 101 Banna Ave Griffith
- Jerilderie Shop** 36 Jerilderie St Jerilderie
- Junee Shop** 85 Broadway St Junee
- Lavington Shop** 321 Urana Rd Lavington
- Leeton Shop** 42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton
- Mulwala Shop** 47 Melbourne St Mulwala
- Narrandera Shop** 181 East St Narrandera
- Tumbarumba Shop** 16 The Parade Tumbarumba
- Turvey Park Shop** Turvey Tops Shopping Centre, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Wagga Shop** 15 Peter St Wagga Wagga

VOLUNTEER TODAY



We are urgently in need of volunteers to work in our Vinnies shops across the Riverina.

If you have some spare time in your week we would love to hear from you.

Please phone **13 18 12** to find out more.

Catholic aged care services left disappointed by budget

The Morrison Government has missed a crucial opportunity to tackle the underlying financial pressures facing the residential aged care sector in today's budget, says Catholic Health Australia.

Catholic Health Australia (CHA) says the sector needs an urgent injection of funding to tackle the triple whammy of declining revenues, rising costs and public expectations that standards need to rise.

CHA, the largest non-government grouping of aged care services in Australia, also says the announcement of \$1.6 billion for 23,000 extra home care packages is welcome but will still leave 80,000 people on the waiting list.

Pat Garcia, CEO of CHA said: "The aged care sector has been underfunded for years, staff are underpaid and many homes are operating at a loss.

"We shouldn't be in this position and older Australians deserve far better from our political leaders. It's disappointing that once again the aged care sector has largely been forgotten in today's budget."

Catholic Health Australia says the Government's investment of \$91.6 million to transition to a new funding model for residential aged care is welcome, but will do nothing to address the immediate financial pressures facing many aged care facilities and says an interim solution is needed urgently.

Mr Garcia said: "We know that more than half of aged care homes are

currently operating at a loss, and almost 70 per cent are operating at a loss in regional Australia.

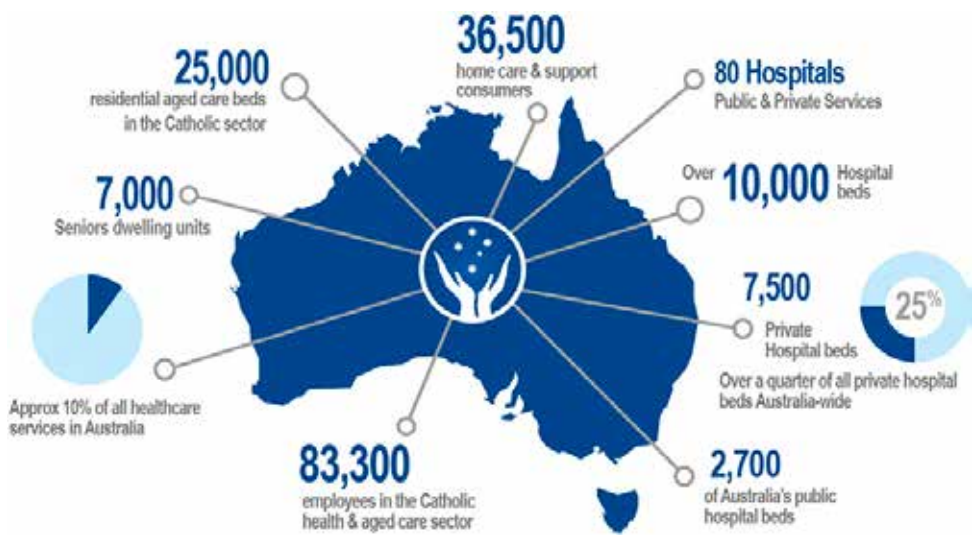
"Unless more money is made available now there is a very real concern that many care homes will be facing closure."

Staff costs account for almost 70 per cent of budgets, but the amount the sector has received from the government has not kept up with the real increases in wages and costs. Between 1999-2000 and 2018-19, subsidy levels increased by 70.3 per cent in nominal terms, whereas provider input costs increased by 116 per cent.

It is calling on the Government to revise the current approach to the indexation of wages and base it instead on the ABS Wage Price Index.

It is also calling on the Government to announce a strategy for releasing and funding the additional home care packages required to tackle the home care package queue and the growing demand for home-based aged care and support services.

Mr Garcia said: "An extra 23,000 packages will make a huge difference to many older Australians, and their families and carers. But we need funding to start flowing to reach everyone on the waiting list."



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First Reconciliation celebrations

Fr Henry Ibe recently conducted two First Reconciliation ceremonies in Urana and Oaklands.



Above: Fr Henry Ibe with Casey Butler & Ben Coghill from St Xavier's School in Urana.



Right: Fr Henry Ibe with Ryan Sheridan, Skye Moloney & Harrison Nixon at St Columba's Church in Oaklands.

Great Cycling Challenge update

Fr Casanova has been cycling many kilometres towards his fund raising goal of \$5000 to help raise much-needed money for fighting kids cancer.



Fr Casanova is participating in the Great Cycling Challenge during the month of October.

His goal is to ride 1000 kilometres and to raise \$5000. To date he has ridden a whopping 548.5 kilometres and raised \$3474.56. Keep up the amazing work Fr Casanova!

To donate visit:
<https://greatcyclingchallenge.com.au/Riders/FrThomasCasanova>



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St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton



Congratulations to Year 12 and their dedicated Year Leader, Mr James Sullivan. St Francis De Sales were able to celebrate a final Mass together with just Year 12 students and their pastoral staff. Many thanks to the College Chaplain Fr Tony Oboshi.

St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook



The school was abuzz with the excited chatter as the students returned to St Patrick’s... they certainly embraced their new play spaces and the Spring sunshine!



St Anne's Primary, North Albury



Year 5 have been busy learning all about the gold rush in preparation for their incursion. They were asked to create a diorama which shows their knowledge of what life was like in the gold fields. They used inspiration from videos, readings and photos to create individually designed dioramas.



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

Year 10 students participated in the Catholic Mission Socktober Knee Up Challenge!



St Joseph’s Primary, Narrandera

Year 5 participated in a STEM day where they built Rube Goldberg machines to perform an everyday task. They needed to transfer kinetic energy through cause and effect relationships. They had to work together as a team, showing resilience and patience to constantly change their machine to successfully complete the task.



St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

Stage 2 & 3 were very excited to hear back from our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, after recently sending him some letters.



29 September 2020

Mr Craig Smith
St Peter's Coleambally Primary School
Currawong Crescent
COLEAMBALLY NSW 2707

Dear Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students

Thank you for writing to me.

It was encouraging to hear from you.

There is nothing more important for the future of our country, or for your personal wellbeing, than making the most of your time at school.

All of the things you learn at school – such as reading, writing, maths, science, computing, sport, creative arts, and respect for others – are things you should carry with you throughout your life.

Australia's future will rely on students like you being inspired by the great teachers and role models of today to achieve your best at school, and to be creative in helping to solve the big issues that we will face as a nation.

Each of you has the opportunity to make a contribution to our nation and its future.

There will always be a fair go for those who have a go in Australia. Keep working hard and enjoy your time at school.

I send you my best wishes.

Yours sincerely



SCOTT MORRISON

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St Patrick's Primary, Griffith



The students enjoyed the new Ultimate Frisbee activity during their sports lessons.



Marian Catholic College, Griffith

Announcing the Marian Catholic College Leaders for 2021.
College Captains: Brooke Aloisi and Imreet Singh
Vice Captains: Amanda Harrison and Connor Sully
Congratulations to these students and best wishes for 2021.



Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga



Congratulations to Ella, Marley and Harry who received their Certificates of Reconciliation from Father Paddy as they prepare for Confirmation this month.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

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

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



Craft...

Saints and Objects Matching Game



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

We used:

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

How to make:

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

Send your coloured picture, word search or joke ideas with your name, age and school to:

Together Editor
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We'd love to hear from you!

OCTOBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search



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



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

Creative Kids

Check out these wonderful coloured in pictures by some very talented children.



Celeste Shaw - Age 6
Saint Mary McKillop College, Albury



Alana Scholz - Year 4
St Patrick's, Holbrook



Jess Hulme - Year 4
St Patrick's, Holbrook



Connor Tyndall - Year 3
St Patrick's, Holbrook

Celebrate The Mass

Reflection, Renewal, Prayer of the holy sacrifice

“The Eucharist is the source and the summit of the Church’s life” (Catholic Catechism)

“Don't be afraid to return to the Community” Pope Francis



Wednesday 21 October

- The origin of the Mass
- Why come to celebrate? (we come to share our story)

Wednesday 28 October

- Introductory Rite
- Liturgy of the word (we come to know our rising from the dead)

Wednesday 4 November

- Liturgy of the Eucharist (we come to break the bread)
- Offertory (we offer ourselves)

Wednesday 11 November

- Holy communion (Christ’s gift to us)
- We are sent forth into the community to be a life giver (we are called to heal the broken)

Time: 7.30pm - 9 pm

Venue: Church Hall (next to Church)
Griffith

Facilitators:

Sr Theresa Foley RSM (Spiritual Director)

Ph: 0429 661 401

Mrs Kay Scobie (Charismatic Renewal)

Resources:

- DVD’s from Broken Bay Institute
- “The Mass” by Fr Tony Doherty

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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, 10:30am and 5:30pm
Our Lady of the Blessed Eucharist Church
Benedict Avenue San Isidore
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - 6:00pm
Saturday Vigil - 6:00pm

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 - 10.00am
Confessions
Prior to Masses
Saturday - 5.30pm-5.55pm
Sunday - 9.00am-9.25am & 5.00pm-5.25pm
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 - 7.30am and 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and 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,
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
Sunday Mass
9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday:
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
March-November 5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions
8.00-8.55am Sunday and 30 minutes before all Masses.
St. Patrick’s Matong
6:00pm Saturday
Confessions 30 min before 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

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
- 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.

Monthly

Laugh

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Family reflections for: October

11th October - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation.
As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbor's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast. What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation? What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation? Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.
Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 23:1-6
Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 Matthew 22:1-14

18th October - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives.
As your family gathers, make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense of another.
In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first

in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96.
Isaiah 45:1,4-6 Psalm 96:1,3-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b Matthew 22:15-21

25th October - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbors by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbor.
Make a poster together as a family. Write the words Love God in the center of the poster and write the words Love Neighbor near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others. Pray the Act of Love.
Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 18:2-4,47,51
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Matthew 22:34-40

Home is where the heart is

This Carers Week (11-17 October), Catholic Healthcare acknowledges and thanks all the carers across Australia providing care and support to a family member or friend – like Ann and Steve who care for their Mum, Evelyn, at home with the support of a Home Care Package.

Evelyn is 93 years old and living with dementia. Her daughter Ann made the decision eight years ago to care for her Mum in her own home and has never regretted the decision.

“She’s my Mum,” says Ann. “I’m happy to do it. It’s hard at times but I am glad she is at home with us.” According to a Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety survey released in July 2020, most Australians want to receive care when they need it in their own homes. A survey of more than 10,000 Australians revealed that 80 per cent of older people want to remain in their current home and 62 per cent want to receive care services in their own home.

Evelyn is a client of Catholic Healthcare and has been approved for a Level 4 Home Care Package. “When we were approved for a Home Care Package, a hospital aged care assessor provided us with a list of local service providers,” says Ann. “We contacted three providers and Catholic Healthcare responded promptly so we went with them. “Communication between a home care provider and the client is very important,” says Steve, Ann’s husband who shares the care of Evelyn. “Earlier this year we were feeling frustrated with the level of service and the fee system, but since our new Care Advisor, Rebecca, came on board in April we

are very happy, and everything has been addressed. “Rebecca has worked with us to ensure Evelyn gets what she needs from the funding provided. She has organised fortnightly respite for us as well as personal care for Evelyn. A physiotherapist had also been arranged to visit the home and assess Evelyn, as she is needs help with flexibility to help her walk. “Through Rebecca we are well informed and continuously updated, we know what Evelyn is eligible for and what services and equipment we can request to make her life as comfortable as possible.” Rebecca is pleased she is able to deliver a positive home care experience for Ann and Steve. “Comprehensive case management is an important part of Catholic Healthcare’s customer experience”, says Rebecca. “For Evelyn, Ann and Steve this has meant building a strong rapport and providing regular, prompt communication. We are identifying additional services to enhance Evelyn’s care, while providing the supports needed for Ann and Steve. We are liaising with hospitals and allied health professionals to ensure Evelyn’s needs are being met, and actioning recommendations, all the time keeping in regular contact with the family. “Without case management, clients feel they have to do all the research



Ann and Steve with Evelyn

themselves, seek out services and source equipment. We know from experience that clients who receive high-quality case management and support stay in their own home longer.” Catholic Healthcare was disappointed to learn of the 7.30 Report segment on Home Care Packages which aired on 8 September 2020. The story was not accurately fact checked to reflect the family’s current circumstances, with footage shown from out-of-date interviews filmed many months ago. **Catholic Healthcare offers a range of home care services which can be funded through the Government’s Commonwealth Home Support Programme or a Home Care Package.**

Find out more by calling 1800 225 474 or visit www.catholichealthcare.com.au/homecare

NATIONAL

CARERS WEEK

11-17 OCTOBER

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

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

In the love of Our Lord, our sincere thanks,
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St Vincent de Paul Society *good works*

A long, cold winter for people impacted by COVID-19

When the COVID-19 outbreak came to Australia, it changed Ray's life in an instant. He went from being a happily employed personal trainer working across five different gyms, to being completely out of work as those gyms shut their doors.

It wasn't just Ray's prospects that took a dive, but also those of his family. His wife, Catherine, had just finished studying and was due to start a new job after many years as a stay-at-home mum and carer for her sister, who lives with Down syndrome. COVID-19 put those plans on hold for the indefinite future.

"The difference a day makes is incredible. It was like a domino effect," Catherine said.

Suddenly she and Ray were in a situation they never imagined: worrying about how they would meet their rent payments, keep their lights on, and most importantly, take care of their five-year-old son, Ben.

"It's an emotional rollercoaster, day by day. I force

myself to get out of bed every morning, just to stop thinking dark thoughts," Catherine said. "I just need some hope."

As they came to terms with their new normal, the family were forced to live on Catherine's meagre carers' pension of \$360 a week. It proved impossible for a family of three.

"We've tried to put all of our outstanding bills on hold as much as possible, and that's helped a bit. But when this six-month period ends, a huge debt will have just accrued," explained Catherine.

The financial stress took its toll on the family's mental wellbeing, with Ray feeling an enormous burden as the family's sole breadwinner. He set right into the work of applying for jobs, but with one million Australians out of work due to COVID-19, it was a crowded field.

Like so many of the people coming to Vinnies in recent months, Catherine and Ray had never sought

help before from a charity or government. They struggled with asking for support, and when they finally called us, their one humble request was for some winter clothes for Ben.

"I came to Vinnies with so much shame about my situation, but [they] treated me with such dignity," Catherine said.

The Vinnies team were able to help the family to pay their electricity bill, access warm clothes, and purchase food to fill the pantry and fridge.

"I'm eternally grateful for the hope we now have, and the sense that we're going to be okay," Catherine said.

"Vinnies has made the difference between whether my family will eat or not."

Our members, volunteers and staff have done incredible work during the coronavirus crisis, tirelessly ensuring that all people continue to have shelter, food, clothes, and the comfort of knowing that someone cares. Even those members who have had to self-isolate to protect their own health have continued to contribute wherever they can, often calling the people we assist over the phone.

Thanks to you, the vast majority of Vinnies Conferences and services across NSW have remained up and running throughout this crisis, at a time when they are so sorely needed.

The COVID-19 Winter Appeal, raised funds to ensure we can continue to make a difference for people like Catherine, Ray and Ben.

As restrictions are gradually lifted, we know it will take time for life to return to normal for the millions of Australians impacted by COVID-19. **Vinnies can play a vital role in helping families back on their feet, ensuring the fallout from this pandemic is not felt so acutely.**



Please consider making a donation to the St Vincent de Paul Society

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SUPPORT THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19

\$48

Can help feed a family for a day if they are unable to access adequate food due to the crisis

\$116

Can help keep the power on when a family cannot afford their bill because of job loss

\$340

Can support someone who has been adversely impacted by the current crisis

\$857

Can keep a roof over a family's head during times of crisis

