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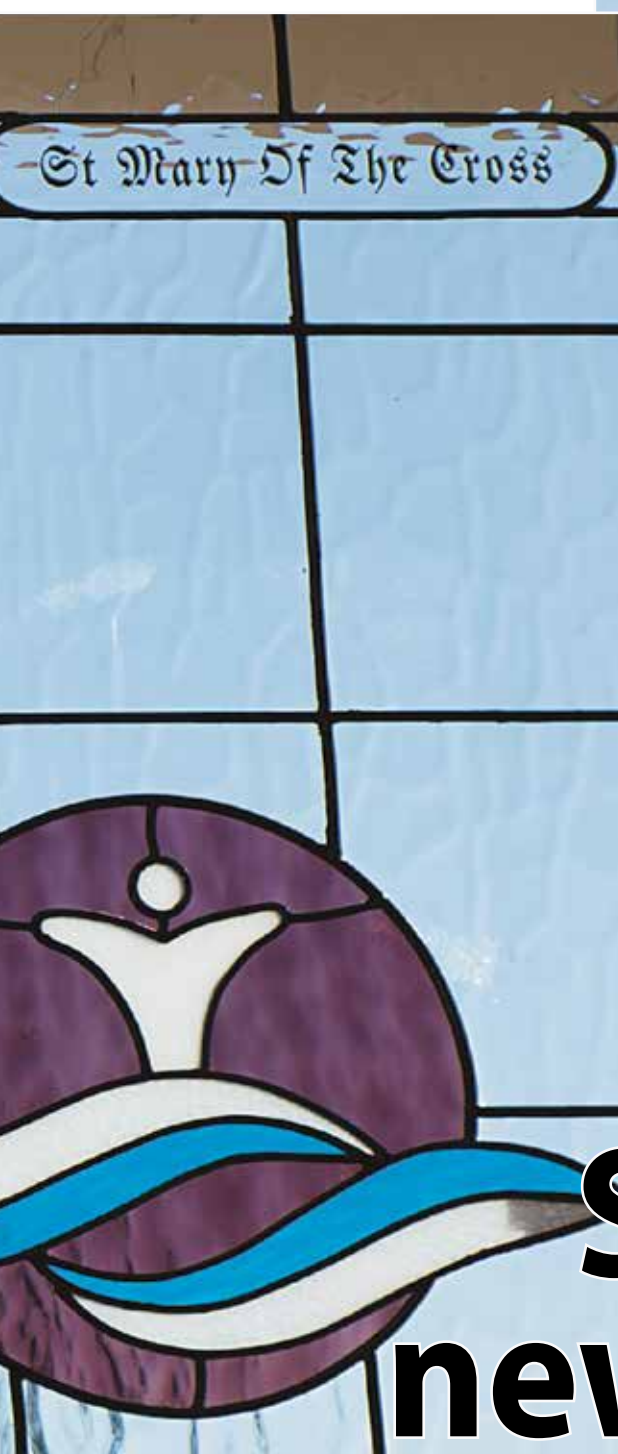
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1917 - 2017

These magnificent stained glass windows in the chapel at St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton were created by Leeton glazier, Wayne Kook as a tribute to the college's founders and the local Indigenous community. Turn to the back cover for the full story...



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Prayer, family & youth central to the Church's pastoral mission

Dear Friends in Christ,

As a final result of the two Plenary Assemblies this Archdiocese (general and deanery) conducted over the last few years, three key words remain. I believe they are a gift of the Holy Spirit for our pastoral mission in the years ahead. They are: **PRAYER, FAMILY AND YOUTH.**

1. PRAYER

Christians instinctively know that the soul of all missionary discipleship is PRAYER. The words of the psalmist remain forever true: "Unless the Lord builds the house in vain do its builders labour." (Psalm 127/1). I was so pleased to witness personally in all these gatherings that the centrality of prayer was highly prioritised.

As I visit our parishes, communities and ecclesial movements, it is apparent that opportunities for prayer in all its various forms (sacramental and devotional) are central. This gives me great joy and hope for the future in these most troubled times.

A new diocesan DVD on Christian Meditation featuring Fr Laurence Freeman OSB (*Set Pools of Silence in this Thirsty Land*) is now available as a helpful resource to assist our prayer lives. It is being well received. You can order it via our website <http://cgccatholic.org.au/>

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life are a fruit of our communal prayer. With gratitude to God we pray for Adrian Chan and Namora Anderson who will both be ordained as deacons on September 22. Also, we pray for Deacon Joshua Scott who will be ordained to the priesthood on October 13. Let us pray for more vocations to the priesthood for our Archdiocese!

2. FAMILY

The societal fluidity that confronts us all is a major challenge to family life. Again, we all know this instinctively. Surely, any way that we can encourage and provide coordinated pastoral resources for fragile marriage and family life in our Archdiocese is a great priority. We have made some confident strides in this by moving towards the establishment of a *Commission on Marriage, Family and Youth*.

A recent Mass and gathering of families in the Cathedral for "Marriage and Family Sunday" gave me great hope. There are many

Archbishop Christopher Prowse

Apostolic Administrator
of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



courageous and joyful families living out their lives as the "domestic Church", despite so many societal pressures to do otherwise.

No doubt the vitally significant *Australian Plenary Council (2020)* will address this issue within the broader agenda of the Catholic Church's role in our new but ancient land.

We have recently moved the administrative agencies of the archdiocese to one site at Manuka, next to the Cathedral. It will help our missionary capacities to provide a unified and co-ordinated *Office of Evangelisation* at the service of the Archdiocese, especially in this vital area.

3. YOUTH

Our Archdiocesan youth will be present this year at the *Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)* in Sydney from December 7 to 9. It will celebrate the 10th anniversary of *World Youth Day, Sydney, 2008* and will inaugurate a national youth year. If any youth wish to join us, please register now! It is shaping up to be a youth gathering that will never be forgotten! You are welcome! Go to: www.acyf.org.au

Also, in recent weeks, we conducted a great local gathering of our youth. It was called LEAD and inspired so much hope and faith in those that gathered. It was an expression of our new three year outreach to the youth of the Archdiocese ... *Formation, Celebration, Mission*. There is so much more to come!

I truly believe that the best evangelisers of youth are youth themselves. So leadership formation and youth teams on mission are the way we are going.

Dear friends, Let us pray fervently for all that we do in our archdiocese. As mentioned, all must be the fruit of prayer. At the same time, all must be directed towards the lonely, marginalised and poor. This is the way of Our Lord and Master, Jesus. The greatest spiritual poverty is to be alienated from personal encounter with Jesus, His Church and Sacraments.

Clearly, we are so much aware of the Church's faults and failings. We are on the pilgrim road of continual conversion in faith. Yet, it is the Holy One, Jesus, who leads us in all our battles of life. With Mary, the pilgrim woman of faith, we commit all we do to Jesus, *the Way, the Truth and the Life* (John 14/6).

**Let us pray for each other
.... Pray for me.**

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MARRIAGE PLEBISCITE INFORMATION

12 SEPTEMBER TO 7 NOVEMBER 2017

"... only the ... union between a man and a woman has a ... role to play in society as a stable commitment that bears fruit in new life."

Pope Francis - Amoris Laetitia



Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference

Australia's Catholic Bishops have requested the Australian electorate think carefully about the impact same-sex marriage will have on the future of Australian families as well as the rights of children.

In its pastoral statement the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference (ACBC) has advised a 'No' vote in the upcoming postal plebiscite on whether Australia should change the Marriage Act to include same-sex marriage.

'Vote No, to keep marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man,' the Bishops' statement says.

Ballot papers will be sent out on Tuesday, 12 September and all votes must be received back by Tuesday, 7 November.

The Bishops' statement says:

The Church views marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man.

Marriage is also a fundamental institution for all societies because of its importance in uniting spouses as

The recognition that marriage is between a man and a woman is not the assertion of bigotry, religious dogma or irrational tradition, but a recognition of human ecology. It does not preclude persons of the same sex entering into other legal relationships.

The Church views marriage as a unique relationship between a woman and a man.

potential parents and in providing for the upbringing of their children. It has therefore been understood as the union of a man and a woman in all cultures and religions until very recent times and is still so defined in international law and the law of most nations.

To insist that marriage is a relationship between a man and a woman is not a criticism of other kinds of relationships. By recognising this particular type of relationship our community and its marriage laws do not unjustly discriminate against other

relationships: rather, our community and its laws recognise the essential connections between male-female bonding and child-bearing, and between children and their natural parents. The Commonwealth has an interest in ensuring that children have the benefit of those connections.

Redefining marriage would deliberately create motherless or fatherless families, which would deprive children of at least one of their biological parents, and would put the preferences or interests of adults before the right and interests of children.

For more information go to the ACBC website <https://www.catholic.org.au/plebiscite>

Episcopal Golden Jubilee for Archbishop Carroll



Archbishop Francis Carroll celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop this week with a special Mass and afternoon tea hosted by Archbishop Christopher Prowse in Canberra.

Archbishop Carroll was ordained as Titular Bishop and Coadjutor Bishop of Wagga Wagga by Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke on 5 September, 1967. After Bishop

Henschke's death on 24 February, 1968 Francis Carroll succeeded him as third Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

At the age of 36 he was the youngest Bishop to be ordained in Australia since Vatican II.

After 16 years as Bishop of Wagga Wagga he was transferred to Canberra-Goulburn Diocese and installed as Archbishop on 31 August, 1983 at St Christopher's Cathedral.

At the age of 36 he was the youngest Bishop to be ordained in Australia since Vatican II.

This week marks another significant milestone for Archbishop Carroll as he celebrates his 87th birthday. Now retired and living in Wagga Wagga, Archbishop Carroll preached the homily for the Solemn Pontifical Mass to celebrate the centenary of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga on 30 July.

He said being able to attend the Second Vatican Council between 1962 and 1965 had inspired his mission to implement the Council's vision for the Church in the modern world.

"The Council's emphasis on the people of God was especially significant," Archbishop Carroll said. "I set out to encourage this active participation by all; the lay faithful most needed that extra encouragement and to be given opportunities to exercise their responsibility," Archbishop Carroll said in his centenary homily.

Women's spirituality discussions

The Sophia Circle discussion group on women's spirituality will begin a four-week program in Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 20 September.

The first session will look at the wisdom and spirituality of Julian of Norwich, the 14th century anchoress who lived in a cell adjoining the parish Church of St Julian in Norwich, England.

Julian is considered a mystic because of her intense experiences of the sacred. Her spiritual classic *Revelations of Divine Love* or *Showings*, is the first known book to be written by a woman in English.

It is in her reflections that we are blessed with the wisdom of Julian as she seems to ask many of the same questions that we have today on the spiritual journey.

The *Sophia Circle* group will meet from 5pm-6.30pm at St Michael's Parish Centre opposite St Michael's Cathedral, Johnston Street, Wagga Wagga on four consecutive Wednesday evenings: 20 and 27 September; 4 and 11 October. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

For more information please contact Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm, Co-ordinator "Breath of Life" Ministry, Diocese of Wagga Wagga, phone (02) 6971 7140 or email mmwalsh@wagga.net.au

Vianney College honours patron at Silver Jubilee Mass



Top left: Bishop Michael Kennedy, Bishop of Armidale, was principal celebrant and homilist. Above: Archbishop Francis Carroll and retired Bishop of Wagga Wagga, Bishop Gerard Hanna assisted in the concelebrated Mass at St Michael's Cathedral.

One of the original 10 seminarians at Vianney College in Wagga Wagga, Bishop Michael Kennedy, was principal celebrant at the 25th Anniversary Mass in St Michael's Cathedral last month.

Vianney College was solemnly blessed and officially opened by the then Apostolic Pro-Nuncio in Australia, Archbishop Franco Brambilla on March 29, 1992. The silver jubilee celebrations and Thanksgiving Mass were deferred to coincide with the liturgical feast of the seminary's patron, St John Vianney (August 4).

Bishop Kennedy, current Bishop of Armidale Diocese, was born and educated in Wagga Wagga. After completing a Diploma in Education and teaching for three years at Albury's Xavier Catholic College, Bishop Kennedy became one of the first students at the new Wagga Wagga Diocesan Seminary in 1992. In 1994 he continued his academic studies in Rome and was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Edward Cassidy at St Michael's Cathedral in 1999. He was ordained 10th Bishop of Armidale in 2012.

In his homily for the Silver Jubilee Mass, Bishop Kennedy spoke about the difficulties faced by St John Vianney

(1786-1859) who as well as being patron of the diocesan seminary is also the patron saint of parish priests.

"In St John Vianney's life we find elements which I think every priest, every seminarian and every potential vocation aspires to. In him we also find the many traits that every parishioner wants to see in their own parish priest," Bishop Kennedy said.

John Vianney's first and only parish was the small town of Ars, northwest of Lyon in France. As the Cure d'Ars (Vianney's title as pastor) he transformed a community that had been hard hit by the French Revolution and religious indifference.

"John Vianney's feats as Parish Priest of Ars are legendary. Within 10 years the parish known for miles around for its licentious dances, heavy-drinking in the bars, blasphemy in the streets, and lack of religious practice was so transformed that John Vianney was able to say 'Ars is no longer Ars!' For the parish had become a model of religiosity and virtue. How did he do it?"

Bishop Kennedy said as a new Parish Priest John Vianney had decided "to be all things to all men" so he made his way around the village and the farms to call on those parishioners that did not call on him at the church.

"He opened his humanity to them as he shared wholeheartedly in his people's joys and successes and cried with them when they were broken hearted. It was said that nobody could bring consolation to a suffering soul like he could."

for the last 20 years of his life.

"As his fame and reputation spread, along with news of many miraculous healings, both spiritual and physical, the quiet and shy John Vianney had to live the last 20 years of his life in an atmosphere of celebrity, even

It was said that nobody could bring consolation to a suffering soul like he could.

After the conversion of his parish John Viannery's fame spread and pilgrims started coming to Ars because they wanted to see and confess their sins to a saint. Initially about 20 visitors a day sought him out but this grew to become more than 400 a day

to the extent of people cutting off pieces of his surplice or pulling out his hair as he walked by. Through it all the saint remained patient and humble, reminding himself of his own lowliness and directing all tributes he received to God."



Class of '92: Eight of the original 10 seminarians from the first year of Vianney College Seminary which opened in 1992. The new diocesan seminary was founded by the late Bishop William Brennan, then Bishop of Wagga Wagga. Among the first students was Michael Kennedy, of Wagga Wagga and now Bishop of Armidale Diocese.



Bishop Kennedy said the life and priesthood of St John Vianney was a model for the type of priest Vianney College seeks to form.

“A priest rich in humanity who enjoys life and enjoys being with people even if he’d prefer to be and at times needs to be alone with God. A priest who will come out and meet people where they are at and gently draw them closer to God. A priest who cares more about the souls in his care than about the bottom line of the parish accounts. A priest who lives a simple life even when it includes more

than John Vianney’s one meal a day of soup and boiled potatoes!”


Bishop Kennedy said Vianney College was founded by Bishop William Brennan to form such priests and it is what the current rector, Fr Peter Thompson and all the formators at Vianney College have strived to do.

“A priest who above all loves God and loves his people and who seeks above all to embody for his people the love and the mercy of God. In short, a priest who is the love of the heart of Jesus and in whom people can see and find God.”



Current and former students of Vianney College Seminary joined with priests of the Wagga Diocese as well as College staff, friends and family to celebrate the Vianney College 25th Anniversary Mass on the feast of the seminary’s patron, St John Vianney on August 4.






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Eucalyptus dwyeri (Dwyer’s Red Gum) is an ideal ‘paddock’ tree – excellent for shade and windbreaks. It is less useful in suburban backyards.

Retired priest of Wagga Wagga, Fr Jim McGee has propagated the tree which was discovered by and named for the first Bishop of Wagga Wagga, Joseph Dwyer.

As the diocese has extensive areas of

farm and grazing land and areas where soil conservation makes the planting of trees important, there are lots more opportunities for farmers, graziers and horticulturists in outlying parishes to commemorate our centenary with a couple (or a couple of hundred) saplings of the Bishop’s Tree.

While the donation for the purchase of a single tree is \$5.00, attractive quantity rates apply for larger purchases. Please phone Zita Denholm 0408 552152 for orders or email zitadenholm@bigpond.com

Plants can be collected in Wagga Wagga by arrangement.

Having a ball:

Vianney hosts inter-seminary soccer competition



by Jomer Calma
Vianney College Seminarian

Vianney College, the Wagga diocesan seminary, recently hosted the Annual Inter-Seminary Soccer Tournament as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations.

The rain that fell during the preceding days cleared on the Tournament Day (August 5) leaving us cold but dry to enjoy a day of soccer.

We do enjoy our soccer at Vianney but we look forward even more to developing friendships and camaraderie among the seminarians across Australia.

In welcoming the visitors from other seminaries to Wagga at the start of the Thanksgiving Mass the rector of Vianney College, Father Peter Thompson CM said: “We are very pleased that our brothers from other Australian seminaries are able to join us tonight. We are united in our love for the priesthood, of which Saint John Vianney is the heavenly patron. We pray together today and we will play against each other tomorrow.”

The Mass also served to mark the 25th Anniversary of the opening of Vianney College. It was concelebrated by Bishop Michael Kennedy, Archbishop Francis Carroll and retired Bishop of Wagga Wagga, Bishop Gerard Hanna together with about 30 priests. St Michael’s Cathedral was filled with 180 seminarians and a large congregation of friends and supporters of the seminary.

The singing, led by the Vianney students and supported by their brother seminarians from around Australia, and the sight of 180 seminarians gathered together made a deep impression on all present. Also impressive was the way the Vianney College cook and kitchen staff were able to feed 180 hungry seminarians at the end of the day.

The following seminaries participated in the 25th anniversary celebrations and soccer tournament: Vianney College; Corpus Christi, Melbourne; Good Shepherd, Sydney; Holy Spirit, Brisbane; Holy Spirit, Parramatta; Redemptoris Mater, Sydney and the Missionaries of God’s Love from Canberra and Melbourne. Each seminary fielded a team and every team played a game against each of the other teams.

Points were awarded for each game and the two highest point scorers, Good Shepherd and Redemptoris Mater, played in the final game. A shoot-out was necessary and it resulted in Redemptoris Mater retaining the trophy they have held for several years.

Though everyone was cold and tired, it did not prevent us all from enjoying a meal together at the Wagga Wagga Country Golf Club in the evening. We look forward to next year’s Soccer Tournament, to be jointly hosted somewhere in Sydney by Holy Spirit Seminary, Parramatta and the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.



Clockwise from top : Team Vianney with coach Laith Gardiner (centre back row) and supporters.

Vianney College in action against the team from Good Shepherd Seminary, Sydney who were runners-up in the Soccer Tournament.

Father Justin Darlow, Administrator of Ganmain Parish, was guest speaker at the Serra Centenary Dinner at the Wagga Commercial Club on 29 July. Fr Darlow spoke about his forthcoming book on the history of Wagga Wagga Diocese, ‘Consider the Crows’ to be published later this year.

Guests enjoying the Wagga Serra Club Centenary Dinner.



by Virginia Gawler
Editor of Together

The Plenary Council which the Australian Catholic bishops have called for 2020 is a first in the world during the pontificate of Pope Francis, according to theologian Massimo Faggioli who visited Wagga in August.

“No other national Church in the world has called a Plenary Council. The world will be watching what happens in the process leading up to the Plenary Council in Australia,” Professor Faggioli said.

Addressing a public gathering at Sacred Heart parish, Koorlingal Professor Faggioli said the Plenary Council 2020 was a critical test of Pope Francis’s vision for the future Catholic Church.

“The Plenary Council would not be happening without the leadership of Pope Francis who doesn’t believe that the institutional Church has all the answers, especially in a world facing extremely complex issues.

“This is a very interesting historical

The Plenary Council is an opportunity for Australian laity to raise their voices

moment as responsibility is shifting from the centralised institutional Church in the Vatican to the local Church and the laity,” Professor Faggioli said.

“The Plenary Council is the perfect time for the Australian laity to start organising and raising questions about the participatory nature of the consultation process.

“Right now is the right time for the people to say to the bishops of Australia ‘we want to be heard and we want to be listened to’.”

Dr Faggioli who is Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University, Pennsylvania is an expert and internationally sought-after commentator on the papacy of Francis and the Second Vatican Council. He was brought to Australia by the Broken Bay Institute (BBI) and visited Wagga at the invitation of the Catholic Schools Office.

“Francis has been part of my scholarly agenda and what I do every day since his election on March 13, 2013.

“Francis is so interesting and important because he is really different from any previous Pope except perhaps Pope John XXIII,” Professor Faggioli said.

“He is the first pope from the end of the earth – Latin America. He sees the world from a completely different perspective to previously Eurocentric popes. At the same

time he is an urban, cosmopolitan pope who has always lived in a city; in the streets.”

Mercy is at the heart of Francis’s pontificate and the heart of his vision of Church possibly because “until now he has experienced a series of failures in his life,” Dr Faggioli said.

“Right now is the right time for the people to say to the bishops of Australia ‘we want to be heard and we want to be listened to’”

“He can identify with the marginalised and the outcast because Francis himself has always been an outsider. He doesn’t like elites of any sort. He never studied or worked in Rome until he became Pope – this is very unusual.”

Francis’s call for the Church to be an inclusive ‘poor church of the poor’ is intrinsic to his experience in the Latin American Church.

“He cannot separate his experience from being with the poor and he is not afraid of saying things that are uncomfortable. This is particularly threatening for some American Catholics who regard him as a Communist.

“Essentially Francis believes the Church

has to be understood as the people of God first whereas previously the priority was the institutional Church. Rather than restructuring the institution he is bypassing the dimension of the hierarchy and giving authority to lay people.

“He is reversing centuries of Catholic Church understanding of leadership by a select few.

“His first exhortation ‘Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel’ outlines his vision of who is in charge of mission in the Church and the importance of ‘journeying together’.

“It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn.”



From left, Alan Bowyer, Director Catholic Schools Office; Professor Massimo Faggioli; Lana Turvey-Collins; Fr Noel Connolly and Chris Cotter, Assistant Director of Schools, Wagga Diocese at the recent CSO Leadership Conference in Wagga

Meet the Plenary Council’s newly appointed facilitator

Lana Turvey-Collins, the newly appointed facilitator for the Plenary Council 2020, believes the three-year consultation process will be an unprecedented chance to engage with all Catholics in Australia.

“From now till the Plenary Council there will be a wide consultation of the entire Australian Church so that all voices can be heard – those who lead; those who work in Catholic organisations; those who feel they don’t have a voice and those who feel they are outside the Church,” Ms Turvey-Collins said.

“It’s about becoming the kind of Australian Catholic community which Pope Francis is calling us to be: ‘a community of communities’...”

The Australian Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council 2020 announced Ms Turvey-Collins appointment last month as Plenary Council Facilitator. Lana has been seconded from Catholic Mission where she has been leading the mission formation team and adult formation program.

When she commences her role in November, Lana will work in partnership with members of the Plenary Council Facilitation Team comprising Fr Noel

Connolly SSC and Mr Peter Gates, Deputy National Director of Catholic Mission.

All three Facilitation Team members were in Wagga recently to take part in a diocesan Catholic Schools Office leadership and mission conference.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane is the interim chair of the Bishops Commission for the historic Plenary Council which will be only the fifth in the Australian Church’s history. The last Plenary Council was held in 1937.

“We are at a time of profound cultural change, not only in the wider community, but in the Church”.

Archbishop Coleridge said the idea of a Plenary Council or synod, which means “on the road together” had been discussed by Australia’s bishops for the past 10 years but agreement to proceed in 2020 gained momentum in the last 12 months.

It will consist of three phases – preparation, celebration and implementation.

“I hope the agenda will be generated by genuine consultation of the whole Church between now and 2020,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

“We are at a time of profound cultural change, not only in the wider community, but in the Church. I think we have to accept the fact that Christendom is over – by which I mean mass, civic Christianity. It’s over. We are not the power in the land which we once were,” Archbishop Coleridge said.

Archbishop Coleridge has outlined what he considers some of the key issues that the whole Church should consider in 2020 to stop the drift, revive hope and set a vision.

“I think we have to ask questions about how we become a more missionary Church, and not a Church that is just retiring behind defensive walls,” he said.

“I think we have to ask questions about ordained ministry. The Church’s response to the diminishment of our apostolic orders, the relationship between the newer communities and our older communities, by which I mean our parishes, the whole future of the parish is a major question. Do we need a new paradigm?”



Previous Plenary Councils were exclusively male gatherings with only bishops, theologians and superiors of male religious orders attending.

However Archbishop Coleridge said women in the Church will play a key role in the 2020 Plenary.

Columban priest Fr Noel Connolly, a member of the Plenary Council Facilitation Team, said the consultation process, if done well, “could change the nature of the Church in Australia”.

Fr Connolly will speak in Wagga Wagga and Albury later this month. See page 16 for details.



Following the spirit of St Francis

The Griffith fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order recently held their Elective Chapter and Visitation at Our Lady of Pompeii Catholic Church, Yoogali.

The fraternity elected a full council and was delighted to re-elect Gloria Piva as Minister.

To conduct the election the fraternity was joined by the NSW Regional Minister, Emil Perosh and Vice Minister, Tony Bozicevic as well as Fr Norbert Pittorino OFM, Franciscan Friary, Waverley.

St Francis of Assisi founded the Secular Franciscan Order (or Third Order) almost 800 years ago for lay members of the church who desired to live the Franciscan charism but were unable to join the first or second Franciscan orders (Friars Minor and Poor Clare sisters).

Secular or Lay Orders allow everyday Catholics to join an approved Order of the Catholic Church without leaving behind family or professional lives.

Secular Franciscans today aspire to model their lives on the example shown by St Francis who, after Jesus, is said to have been the most Christ-like person to have ever lived. Francis showed an example by devoting himself to a life of poverty so as to better imitate Jesus. Through his total abandonment of worldly goods Francis was able to put Jesus at the centre of his life. There he was filled with abundant spiritual riches and developed a sense of perfect joy and love for God, neighbour and all of creation.

Secular or Lay Orders allow everyday Catholics to join an approved Order of the Catholic Church without leaving behind family or professional lives.

Secular Franciscans live out their apostolate through their families, their day-to-day work and activities. They aspire to imitate St Francis by placing Jesus at the centre of their lives. They seek a spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying their own material needs. They purify

their hearts from the desire of possession and power and cultivate the Franciscan spirit of peace, fidelity and respect for all life. They seek to become ‘Instruments of Peace’ in the world and share a love for all of creation, endeavoring to find the imprint of God in all created things.

The Griffith fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order welcomes new members who feel the desire

and call to follow Christ through the example of St Francis of Assisi. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month at St Joseph’s Hall, Yoogali at 2pm. For more information please contact Gloria Piva on (02) 6962 2325 or gloriapiva1@gmail.com

You may also visit the national website at www.ofsaustralia.org.au



The Griffith fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order pictured after their recent Elective Chapter at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, Yoogali. Back row from left: Carmel Carlo, Ronda Hansen, Katherine Andreazza, Emil Perosh (NSW Regional Minister), John Dalbroi and Tony Bozicevic (Vice Minister). Front row from left: Antonella Ciccia, Mary Bertoldo, Gloria Piva (Minister), Vera Sergi and Fr Norbert Pittotino OFM.



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DEEP PRAYER MINI COURSE

ASCEND

Sept Sat 2 OR 4 Tuesday Nights Sep 5,12,19,26

SEP 2

WHOLE MINI COURSE INCLUDES MASS
Saturday at 9:00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.Keynote Speaker: Rick Parmenter
Founder of Prayer-Evangelists

How is Your Prayer Life? Do you converse with God or do you verse with God? Would you like to learn an authentic fast track method for advancing in prayer so you can have a profound relationship with Jesus?

"ASCEND" is an amazing and fruitful mini course on prayer that shows you how to launch a deep and powerful prayer-life, whether you are a 'beginner' or a 'seasoned pro', so you can pray and experience prayer like a saint. Spread over 4 Tuesday nights OR one whole Saturday, for your convenience, we will extract the nectar from the saints on this topic of prayer in a fun and enjoyable environment. In the Deep Prayer Mini Course - "ASCEND", you will learn:

- the 6 steps to Launching a Deep and Powerful Prayer-Life as the saints did, no matter where your prayer-life is at, even for busy teenagers and parents, that is easy to learn and easy to implement
- the 4 moments of praying in the presence of God, and how this sets the foundation for all prayer
- the 6 Prayer Performance Indicators, that help you analyse where your prayer life is at and also reveals which obstacles are hindering you from advancing in prayer
- 12 top tools for digging and revealing the treasure that awaits you in Christo-centric meditation
- how to move from a monologue to a dialogue with God and how this will assist you moving from meditation toward contemplation
- the difference and benefit of passive and active contemplation so you can recognize what to do when you first encounter this stage of prayer development and how to receive this gift from God peacefully
- a surprise bonus that reveals 5 steps that converts prayer distractions into prayer advancements and finally how to put it all together that makes it easy to remember and follow.

SEP 5

LAYING THE FOUNDATION
Tuesday at 7:30 - 8.30 p.m.

SEP 19

PATH TO DEEP PRAYER
Tuesday at 7:30 - 8.30 p.m.

SEP 12

12 TOOLS OF THE TRADE
Tuesday at 7:30 - 8.30 p.m.

SEP 26

IMPLEMENTATION
Tuesday at 7:30 - 8.30 p.m.HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
5 Bardia St // Ashmont // Wagga Wagga.REGISTER YOUR NAME BY 29 AUGUST:
prayer.ascend@gmail.com

Deep prayer mini course

Wagga man Rick Parmenter has spent a large part of his life trying to find the way to a powerful prayer life.



"It has taken me almost 20 years to get to the point of having a deep and powerful prayer life and I want to share it with others; to create a fast track path to a deeper prayer life," Rick says.

The result is ASCEND – a deep prayer mini course which Rick is running in September at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Ashmont in Wagga.

Whether you are a prayer 'beginner' or a 'seasoned pro' Rick says the ASCEND course, which he devised, will show you how to experience prayer that is transformative, practical and highly engaging.

The ASCEND course which Rick is running each Tuesday in September from 7.30-8.30pm, will teach participants how to move from a monologue to a dialogue with God and how this assists you to move from meditation to contemplation.

"My prayer life truly started to blossom when I got plugged into a contemplative religious order – the Community of the Sons and Daughters of God in Dookie, Victoria. They are a contemplative monastic community founded in Italy in 1947 by an Italian priest, Father Divo Bar-sotti.

"Studying at the Augustine Institute (AI) in Denver, Colorado from 2008-2010 helped me to understand the need for the New Evangelisation to take hold in our lives with new ardour and methodologies for a neopagan world. The Augustine Institute equips Catholics to renew the Church through the lens of the New Evangelisation as envisioned by Pope John Paul II."

Rick's background in teaching, IT and video production, together with his studies at the AI and experience of contemplative prayer led him to create the ASCEND mini course.

Sessions will be held on the next three Tuesdays in September: 12, 19 and 26 from 7.30-8.30pm.

Late comers are always welcome so it's not too late to register by emailing prayer.ascend@gmail.com

Venue is the Holy Trinity Catholic Church Hall, 5 Bardia St, Ashmont, Wagga.

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An orientation course will be held in January 2018.



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Father's Day

The celebration of Father's Day can be a painful reminder for men who are separated or estranged from their children or families



by Paul Jensen
Chief Executive Officer
Centacare South West

In Catholic Europe and South America Father's Day has been celebrated on St Joseph's feast day - March 19 - since the Middle to late Middle Ages.

In recent centuries however many countries in Europe and North America have adopted the US date - the third Sunday of June - for the celebration.

According to that reputable tome Wikipedia the first observance of Father's Day in the US was held on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia. Grace Golden Clayton was mourning the loss of her father when in December 1907, the Monongah Mining Disaster killed 361 men, 250 of them fathers, leaving around 1,000 fatherless children. Clayton suggested that her pastor, Robert Thomas Webb honour all those fathers. In Australia we celebrate Father's Day on the first Sunday in September; the rationale for the date being lost in antiquity.

For many, Father's Day is a celebration honouring fathers and paternal bonds and the influence of fathers in society. There is much to be celebrated. Healthy fathering has provided positive role models, compassionate and strong leadership and together with healthy mothering, a firm foundation for families and society. For others however, Father's Day is a painful reminder of relationship failure, family estrangement and father absence, loneliness and hopelessness.

The family in the west has experienced the rise of 'fatherless homes' where children experience the absence of a male role model and presence and women bear the burden of child rearing.

The rise of 'fatherless homes' in the context of family breakdown has become a political football pitting men/father's rights groups against ultra-feminist groups. While in danger of oversimplifying a complex social debate, the former argue that children have a right to fathering and that the law preferences female custody. They argue western construction of masculinity has demeaned the role of men in society.

The latter posit that many men have abdicated their responsibilities and therefore their rights as fathers. They argue that this is a result of male privilege and entitlement. Both positions are somewhat right.

For instance some men are confused about their roles and abdicate their responsibility leaving heroic single mothers to raise children - a gendered construction that privileges men and expects women to take responsibility for child rearing.

Rather than get into the complex terrain of gender constructions, rights and the law in this short piece I want to focus on the research around children's needs in the context of family breakdown. There is good news here for families and for fathers.

While there may be gender, culture and economic variations the research confirms that in the context of family breakdown:

- Children want healthy relationships with both parents; even when there is abuse, neglect and/or violence. This is problematic because the needs of the children to have a relationship with both parents must be assessed through the right of the child to safety - a prior and more important right.
- Children's adjustment post-separation is largely dependent on the level of acrimony present in the relationship between both parents - not the fact of separation. That is, the more hostile parents are post-family breakdown the more likely children will struggle to adjust.

That children want healthy relationships with both parents post-partner separation is good news for parents and as we celebrate Father's Day this month, for fathers. Fathers remember your children need you! Parents also desire healthy flourishing relationships with their children.

Fathers and mothers take note. When we fix on our rights, become hostile to our ex-partner and neglect our children's rights, we treat children as

our possessions and they become the meat in the sandwich. Consequently, we threaten our children's wellbeing and adjustment post family breakdown.

Children are not our possessions but our responsibilities and as adults we have responsibilities to provide contexts of love and safety where children can flourish. This includes, as far as possible, living in peace with ex-partners. A tall order requiring forgiveness...I know. In time, when children become adults they will socialise these responsibilities for their children.

The song Father's Day written by Weddings, Parties, Anything won the Aria song of the year in 1993 and sums up the sentiments best. Check out some of the lyrics below and the YouTube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYKNqftCkSQ>.

"I haven't always been a single man, And I haven't always lived up here. Along with all these other single men, With a ring around the bath, and a cigarette butt in my beer, And I haven't always been a lonely man, And I haven't always lived alone. And you know I haven't always drunk this much, But hey before you cut me down, Just try standing in my shoes, 'Cause I don't have to hear one word of this no. (Chorus) On any other day, I might care what you say, But every Saturday is Father's Day. You might call it sad, You might call me mad, But I've got one- who calls me Dad. What of a darlin' wife that once I had? Well I'm pleased to say that she still talks to me. But I try not to think of what went wrong, 'Cause if I say that I was right, She might say that she was right, And the only rights I care about are visiting rights yeah. We go where he wants to go. We do what he wants to do. I tell him everything I know, 'Cause I'd do anything to prove, Yeah I'd do anything to prove."

DaDs Care 4 Kids

If you are a father who is struggling post-separation, Centacare auspices a DaDs Care 4 Kids support group which seeks to support men to live in peace, as far as possible, with their ex-partners and remain engaged with their children. Why not check them out?

For more information please contact Peter Makeham at DaDs Care 4 Kids on - 0408 241 673 -



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E: info@centacareswnsw.org.au
www.centacareswnsw.org.au



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We also outreach to the following locations:

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RM2802961

Online safety focus for National Child Protection Week

New website helps support families facing challenges of social media

***Listening to Children: an Essential Voice* is the theme for 2017 National Child Protection Week which runs between Father's Day and Child Protection Sunday this weekend.**

Parishes across Australia are being encouraged to celebrate Child Protection Sunday (10 September). Its theme, *See Me, Hear Me* highlights that when children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously an institution is better prepared to be child safe.

Resources distributed to parishes by the National Professional Standards Office are designed to raise the profile of Child Protection Week and acknowledge the ongoing child safe commitment of the Catholic Church and its agencies.

Empowering children and young people in online and social media environments is recognised as a concern for families and is a key focus at this time. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has developed a powerful website in support of Australian communities as they grapple with the many challenges faced by children, young people, parents and the wider community.

Greg Gebhart from the eSafety Commissioner's Office presented an overview of the website and available support materials at a meeting of diocesan leaders in Wagga Wagga recently.

The website <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> provides guidance for using safety settings on the family's web-connected devices; help with cyberbullying and



safety resources targeted to the specific needs of parents, carers and educators. The website offers tips for choosing movies and games as well as strategies for keeping young people safe online.

Child Safe Communities a priority for Diocese

The Diocese of Wagga Wagga continues to maintain its commitment to implementing whatever it takes to ensure all parts of the diocese are child safe.

Prior to his retirement, Bishop Hanna endorsed the establishment of a Safeguarding Panel representing Centacare, the Catholic Schools Office, the Chancery and its agencies. The establishment of this panel and appointment of an interim Safeguarding

Children Officer is a direct response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The panel provides advice and guidance in all matters relating to the protection of children and vulnerable people in the diocese.

From its beginning, a 'whole of diocese' approach has been its mantra. Its achievements include:

- the participation of diocesan clergy, Centacare staff and school leadership teams in 'Leading the Way', a professional development program designed to enhance the knowledge and understandings they have as significant leaders in child-related work
- the development of a diocesan website resource for Safeguarding

Children and Vulnerable People <http://safeguarding.wagga.catholic.org.au/>

- a review of the diocesan safeguarding practices by the National Committee for Professional Standards

This external review endorsed the whole of diocese approach to safeguarding and recommended the permanent continuation of a Safeguarding Children Office. This was one of nine recommendations accepted by Archbishop Christopher Prowse for strategic implementation in consultation with the incoming Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

Recommendations from the review provide guidance for the immediate and longer term and a vehicle for the diocese's continued cooperation and response to the Royal Commission.

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chosen youth

"You did not choose me, but I chose you" Jn 15:16

Stirring the hearts of young Catholics in Wagga diocese

It's an exciting time to be a young Catholic in Australia today!

Youth ministries around Australia are starting to thrive as about 15,000 young Catholics prepare to come together for the 2017 Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney in December <http://youthfestival.catholic.org.au/>

Now is the time to unite in faith in our parishes, in our diocese and in our nation.

Chosen Youth is a diocesan youth movement which caters for high school students and young adults and aims to bring about a positive and inclusive Christian community.

I've been part of the development of Chosen from its beginning and can give testimony to the group ethic and hard work from our volunteers. After countless hours and meetings by our youth chaplains and young leaders from all around the diocese we were sent on the mission to create a sustainable youth body for the Wagga Diocese.



We can say with 100 percent confidence that it is all thanks to God that we are where we are now - from our first Chosen C Group on August 5, 2016 to its launch into the Diocese at the Youth Expo in November 2016. God has provided generously and that is evident in our hardworking volunteers.

The young people in our parishes can't get enough of Chosen and for good reason! They present their own tone and bring their own vibes to create an awesome atmosphere of openness to learning, giving, building faith and relationships.

The word 'Chosen' is used frequently in the Bible. At Chosen Youth we want to draw young people into the parish, to contribute to parish life and the

community. To help and encourage this we need you, our parishioners, to support and guide us as we work together to build up our Christian nation.

Chosen Youth: Why the name?

The word 'Chosen' does not indicate that people are selected and sought out but rather that we are all God's 'Chosen' people. We are chosen by God to serve, reach out in mission, spread joy and build His Church.

Beneath our Chosen Youth logo you will notice a verse taken from John's Gospel: "You did not choose me, but I chose you." (Jn 15:16). Diving into the meaning of this we begin to discover that it is not our choice as Christians to choose God. Rather it is God who has chosen us and is inviting us into relationship with Himself and we have the freedom to accept that invitation.

Our Mission Statement:

Young people coming together to deepen faith in Jesus Christ, find community, go out and set hearts on fire.

Our mission statement sets the tone for what we want to achieve at Chosen. We want to reach out to the catechised and non-catechised, enrich faith and Communion (a personal relationship with Jesus and with our neighbour) and stir a desire in the hearts of our young people to spread the faith and set hearts on fire with the love which comes forth from the Holy Spirit. There is a saying that states, you can only give what you have received, and we aim to provide an environment where young people can receive Jesus, especially through the Sacraments.

Our Leaders:

Our leadership group is made up of practicing, committed Catholics who participate regularly in the Sacraments and faith formation. Our leaders are closely guided by our priest chaplains. We want the best for our young people so we take great care in making sure we are delivering sound Catholic teaching.

by Christopher Gilroy

Diocesan Youth Worker for the Wagga Wagga Diocese and
Coordinator for Chosen Youth C-Group in Wagga Wagga

Ways to get involved with Chosen Youth:

C Groups

Communion Groups are Chosen Youth Groups based in your local parish. Communion (Latin), to be in communion with Christ and with others.

Chosen 18+

Go deeper with live music and guest speakers within cool settings.

Rallies

Live bands, guest speakers, games, food, entertainment, spirituality and more. Open to all young people in the Wagga Diocese and beyond. Hosted in different locations throughout the diocese.

Chosen Retreat

The pinnacle of the Chosen Youth calendar. Three days of awesome speakers, entertainment, praise and worship, small groups, Mass, Eucharistic adoration, Confession and communion.

You can keep updated on:

Facebook

- Chosen Youth
- Chosen Youth Wagga (Wagga Wagga C Group)
- Chosen Youth Griffith (Griffith C Group)

Instagram

- @chosenyouthwaggadiocese
- @chosenyouthwagga (Wagga Wagga C Group)
- @griffithchosenyouth (Griffith C Group)



Social Justice Sunday:

Bishops call for inclusive and sustainable economy

Pope Francis has called for an economic system that is just and sustainable and meets the needs of all people.

He denounces economic structures that take a purely utilitarian view of human beings, treating them as mere elements of production to be thrown away if they are not seen as useful or productive.

Inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the vision of Pope Francis, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2017-2018 is titled *Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy*.

In their statement for Social Justice Sunday, 24 September, the Bishops call for an Australian economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

In the Gospel of Matthew for this year's Social Justice Sunday, Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard where all become active contributors and are recognised for their human dignity.

In their introduction to this year's statement the Bishops say the vivid image of market place and vineyard still resonates.

'That the employer goes four times during the day to find workers in desperate need speaks of the precarious existence of the day labourer and a market that fails to serve the whole community.

'This Social Justice Statement considers Australia's economic priorities. We draw from the teachings of Pope Francis and his predecessors, highlighting how extreme versions of free-market economics have failed to serve all. Inequality has been growing in Australia. Many have missed out on opportunities to secure stable employment and a just share in income and wealth – even after 26 years of continuous economic growth.

'When it comes to the social justice of the entire economic system, we draw on new understandings of human development from economics and social policy that emphasise how the wellbeing of humans and all of creation must be an economy's central purpose.

'We call for a new approach that prevents exclusion from the outset and, like the owner of the vineyard in our Gospel reading, engages all people as dignified, active contributors to sustainable and inclusive growth,' the Statement says.

Australia has experienced a quarter of a century of continuous economic growth but the benefits of this good fortune have not been distributed equally. In our workplaces, conditions and security of employment have been eroded while those who



are unemployed subsist on incomes well below poverty levels. Australia is experiencing a housing crisis. And our Indigenous brothers and sisters struggle with economic and social burdens that most Australians cannot imagine.

Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, the Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen, Bishop of Parramatta said for many Australians the spectre of homelessness is becoming too real.

Such a society will reject an 'ideology of the market' that forgets the principles of justice and equity.

In the light of these challenges, the Statement calls us to build an economy founded on true solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. Such a society will reject an 'ideology of the market' that forgets the principles of justice and equity. Justice must be built into the very foundations of our community, and business can work for everybody's benefit, not just for shareholders. The excluded and vulnerable must have a voice in decision making. God is calling us to use his bounty wisely, for the good of all and of our planet, the Statement urges.

"In major cities and towns the prospect of buying or even renting a home is moving out of reach, even for those with decent jobs. Emerging groups such as older Australians particularly women, are at risk of becoming homeless," Bishop Long Van Nguyen said.

For more details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au



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Sister Joan Westblade LCM

From Lockhart to Timor Leste – an extraordinary journey



Sister Joan Westblade, a significant and extraordinary woman for both the Australian Province of the Little Company of Mary Congregation and for the people of Timor Leste died in Canberra on 8 July, aged 87.

Joan was born at Lockhart into a loving farming family. Her parents were Charles and Catherine and her siblings Marie, Sr Marie, Daughter of Charity, Kathleen, Agnes and Brian.

Entering the Little Company of Mary (LCM) at Lewisham, Sydney on 13 October 1952, Joan made first profession in 1955 and her final profession on 1 July 1960, taking her life motto, "Be it done unto me".

Joan worked at Calvary Hospital, Lewisham for four years before completing her psychiatric training at Mount St Margaret's Hospital, Ryde where she was well known for her diversional therapy with inpatients. Joan also undertook a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, a large hospital caring for those with cancer and terminal conditions.

This knowledge and health care experience she took with her to meet the needs of other LCM facilities in Australia including Calvary Hospital, Wagga, Cairns, Tasmania, Melbourne and Canberra.

For six years, Joan managed the Little

Company of Mary retreat centre at Overdale near Wagga which provided hospitality, renewal programs, retreats and space for those who wished to spend some quiet and reflective time. She loved this opportunity to live among the rolling hills and animals and one could sense the love of the land was still in Joan's heart.

In conjunction with her ministry, Joan was also aware of the need for constant nurturing of the inner heart and soul. Her life was enriched by many renewal and spiritual programs, both national and international.

One of Joan's greatest hopes was to establish a palliative care program for those dying in remote villages without basic medical assistance.

In 1996 she undertook a 12-month Missiology course at the Columban Institute in Turrumurra. This was to be a life changing event for Joan as it led to the beginning of an incredible journey for herself and others. During a conversation with two Josephite Sisters - Sr Susan Connelly and Sr Josephine Mitchell – Joan became aware of the desperate situation for the people of East Timor. She was deeply struck by this information and felt a strong link between East Timor and the LCM charism of the spirit of Calvary.

The result was Joan's participation in the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission which she carried out for 14 years.

Her first assignment to Timor Leste was as a member of a group sponsored by the Marist Mission Centre to assess

current health conditions. In partnership with clinics managed by the Carmelite Sisters, Joan subsequently developed valuable programs aimed at serving and caring for sick and dying people, deprived of adequate health facilities and resources.

In the years following, Joan worked with and trained healthcare workers in the Carmelite clinics at Motael, Maubara, Maubisse and Bobonar. She managed to get equipment and other basic medical resources into the country, sometimes carrying it in her own luggage.

Through the many contacts and networks initiated by Joan, medical professionals and others began to show a great interest in East Timor by continually raising funds for the health care ministry in Timor Leste.

One of the valuable programs which Joan coordinated was a nutrition program using the leaves of the Moringa tree, native to Timor Leste. The powdered form was used to supplement the diet of children, TB patients and expectant mothers by sprinkling a small quantity on a simple meal of rice and vegetables. Joan produced a book for education and healthcare workers in how to use the product and its benefits which is still in use today. This project of Joan's continues and is being further implemented by the Carmelite Sisters at the Maubara clinic.

One of Joan's greatest hopes was to establish a palliative care program for those dying in remote villages without basic medical assistance. Through her inspirational enthusiasm and with the support of generous donors from Australia, the Palliative Care Program was implemented by Joan in collaboration with the Little Company of Mary and the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres. This program continues to be partly funded by the Little Company of Mary and is a great support to the people of Timor Leste.

A pilgrimage to the top of the sacred mountain of Ramelau was an event which became extremely important in Joan's personal life. Within sight of Mt Ramelau, Joan had a large cross erected in memory of a valued co-worker, the late Dr Andrew McNaughton who together with Joan was among the first to bring relief to the suffering people after the independence vote of 1999.

In her eulogy Sr Jennifer Barrow, Province Leader of the Little Company of Mary, said, "Joan's life journey was indeed impacted by the suffering of others from whom she could not walk away, inspired by the charism and spirit of our founder Venerable Mary Potter."

"As we farewell Joan today it is with grateful hearts for all that she has tirelessly given, to all peoples, but especially to the people of Timor Leste, whom she served with love, care, courage, and compassion.

"Thank you Joan from your Sisters of the Little Company of Mary and thank you Madre Joanna, from the people of Timor Leste. May you rest in peace Joan; your journey is now complete."

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Our Common Word Harmony Through Unity International Day of Peace

Multi-Faith Dialogue: Spiritual Attitude Towards Materialism



Date: 23rd September 2017
Time: 2pm to 5pm
Venue: Council Meeting Room
Cnr Baylis & Morrow Sts
Wagga Wagga

Faith Group Speakers:
Christianity: John Nielson
Islam: Suhail Noor
Hinduism: Anjanee Bichani
Buddhism: Geshe Tenzin Zopa

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Multi Faith Dialogue

Our Common Word (OCW) is organising an interfaith dialogue to commemorate International Day of Peace, in Wagga Wagga on Saturday 23 September.

Our Common Word (OCW) is a multi-faith assembly of people united through harmony to promote interfaith congeniality and empower communities from all backgrounds to serve humanity. OCW represents Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists from groups including: The Muslim Association of Riverina Wagga Wagga (MARWA);

Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga; Sai Wagga and Potowia Buddhist Group.

The event is a multi-faith dialogue to discuss and celebrate common values and how these values can contribute to promoting harmony and unity in Australia. The event will be held at the Council Meeting Room, corner Baylis and Morrow Streets, Wagga Wagga from 2pm-5pm. The topic is *Spiritual Attitude Towards Materialism*.

**For more information
please phone Peir Woon
on 0431 820 663.**



National Association of Catholic Families

National Conference 2017

Belgrave Heights, Victoria
Sep 29-1 Oct 2017

A chance for Catholic families to come together for mutual spiritual, moral and social support in a fun holiday atmosphere.

Affordable Family & Friendly
The conference is designed to cater for whole families with conference talks for adults and catechetical talks and activities for teens and children of all ages.

We are pleased to announce that **Archbishop Denis Hart**, Archbishop of Melbourne will be presiding at the opening conference mass on Saturday.

The conference will feature many speakers and presenters from across Australia including: The NET Ministries, Fr Andrew Grace, Fr Paschal Corby, Annie & Steve Lawrence, Anna Krohn, Peter Stevens, James Parker, Andrew Mullins and Pat Byrne.



Registration

All conference booking is to be done online:
www.trybooking.com.au/276710
Registrations Close Sunday 10 September 2017

Download the online brochure for full conference details or for more info contact...

Melbourne: Clare McCormack 03 9543 5813
Sydney: Mary Carr-Murray 0435 496 624
Wagga: Mark & Jenny Mannering 0419 411 161
N.E. Victoria: Bridget & Brendan Geller 0437 219 046
nacf.melbourne@gmail.com

Conference seeks to rally Catholic families

The National Association of Catholic Families (NACF) invites families to an authentically Catholic experience in a fun holiday environment at their national conference in Melbourne from September 29 - October 1.

“Especially at this time, with the upcoming postal plebiscite on same-sex marriage, families need support to ‘rally the troops’ and stand up for what’s right, true and beautiful,” said Mark Mannering, president NACF Wagga Wagga.

Entitled “The Family: Pearl of Great Price” the conference will host prominent Catholic speakers who will deliver inspiring talks for adults, catechetical talks for teens and enriching activities for younger children.

Speakers include Annie and Steve Lawrence; Fr Paschal Corby; the team from NET Ministries; Anna Krohn; Dr Andrew Mullins and many more. Inspiring talks include ‘The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary’; ‘Truth and Lies: Why Redefining Marriage Destroys Society’ and ‘The Campaign for Porn-Free Internet’.

Daily Mass, candlelight Rosary procession, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Morning Prayer and Confession will be available.

Family entertainment with a bush dance, sporting activities and plenty of free time will ensure everyone enjoys themselves. A large screen will be erected for those who wish to watch the AFL Grand Final.

The conference is at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre, 40 kms east of Melbourne. Accommodation, cabins and camping are available.

The conference will be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith, make new friends and create life-long memories for your children while enhancing their sense of belonging to the Catholic Church.

For more details and bookings, see www.trybooking.com/276710 and the advertisement in this edition. Or for more information contact Mark and Jenny Mannering on 0419 411 161 (Presidents NACF Wagga Wagga)

Take time out for your marriage

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. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. **Take time out of your busy schedule to invest in your most precious asset ... your Marriage!**

Weekend date: 24th - 26th November, at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville in NSW.

Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com



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

An Evening with Fr Noel Connolly

Father Noel Connolly, a Columban missionary priest and a member of the Plenary Council 2020 Facilitation Team, will speak in Wagga and Albury later this month.

Fr Noel will be visiting Wagga and Albury as a guest of Catholic Mission. He will speak at two functions: in Wagga at Sacred Heart Parish Church, Koorinal at 7.30pm on Monday 25 September and in Albury at the Slattery Catholic Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 September.

Fr Noel was ordained a priest in 1969 and served as a missionary in Korea from 1970-1974.

He has also been Rector of the Columban Pacific Mission Institute; Vicar-General of the Columbans throughout the world and Director of the Columbans in Australia and New Zealand.

"Fr Noel is a very down to earth speaker and person," says John Goonan, Catholic Mission Director for Wagga Wagga.

"He was a missionary in Korea when mission meant 'going to' and 'working for' people in other countries. Today he talks about Pope Francis' desire that everyone regard themselves as

missionaries in their daily lives.

"Fr Noel has recently published two booklets - one called Reflections on Mission and the other is called Pope Francis' Inspiring Vision. I'm sure these will be a significant part of what he will talk about."

Supper will be served at the end of the evening. Entry by donation to help cover costs.

Please RSVP for either evening by phoning (02) 6937 0013 and leaving a message with number attending and which venue for catering purposes.



A Pilgrimage for the Heart 20 March - 10 April 2018

Accompanied by Dr Kerrie Hide and Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm



The Mystics in Europe

"All our life is grounded and rooted in love..." Julian of Norwich, *A Revelation of Love*, ch 49

We will begin our mystical journey in the silence of Julian's cell in Norwich, travel across to Spain to encounter the spirit of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, then go on to Italy to meet Clare and Francis of Assisi. We will conclude the pilgrimage in Germany enjoying the beauty of the Rhineland and surrounds with Hildegard, Gertrude and Mechthild.

DATES: Depart Sydney Tuesday 20 March 2018

Return Sydney Tuesday 10 April 2018

COST: \$9,850 twin share. Extra: Insurance, tipping & single supplement

Contact Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm for further details about the pilgrimage and for the application form and information brochure.

Email: mmwalsh@wagga.net.au Ph: 02 6971 7140

13 Marns St, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

The Travel Agent we are going through is *Harvest Journeys*. As this is a private pilgrimage all enquiries at this stage go through Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm.

Harvest Journeys-11th Floor, 133 Liverpool St. Sydney NSW 2000

Monica Mansour Operations Manager – Private Groups

Pilgrimage: Ref No. 8PVO7 tel: +61 2 9390 5460 toll free: 1800 819 156
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Corowa parish pays tribute to Father Paul Hart

***"It's been a great journey;
God is good and life is worth living."***

With these words Father Paul Hart summed up his 46 years of ministry as a priest in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Father Hart retired earlier this year after serving the Corowa community for the past 20 years as parish priest of St Mary's Star of the Sea Church.

Born in Junee in 1941, the son of Bede and Mona Hart, Fr Paul was ordained in his home parish church, St Joseph's, by Bishop Francis Carroll on August 29, 1970.

After schooling at Erinvale Public School; Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Boys' School, Bowral and Christian Brothers' Agricultural College near Goulburn, Fr Paul worked in farming, wool classing and banking before deciding to pursue a call to the priesthood.

Bishop Henschke supported his application to the diocesan priesthood however before he could begin seminary studies, Fr Paul went back to school to complete years 11 and 12 at Chevalier College, Bowral as a mature age student.

He studied philosophy at St Columba's Seminary, Springwood then theology at St Patrick's College, Manly from 1967-1970.

After ordination Fr Paul's parish appointments included St Michael's Cathedral Parish, Wagga Wagga; North Albury; Albury; Narrandera; Lavington and Tocumwal. He was appointed parish priest of Tumbarumba in 1984 and Finley in 1989 before his move to Corowa in 1997.



Fr Hart was only the third parish priest appointed to Corowa since 1945.

The Corowa community gathered to pay tribute to their much loved minister at a farewell dinner at the Corowa RSL Club in January. Speaking on behalf of the parish community, Deputy Principal of St Mary's Primary School, Corowa Mrs Mary Milthorpe, said Fr Paul was "far more than our parish priest".

"He has become our friend and mentor and has accompanied us on a significant part of our life's journey these last 20 years. He has supported

many parish activities and instigated others for the benefit of his parishioners such as the monthly Anointing Mass at St Mary's hall and the Karinya Aged Care facility.

"Fr Paul's ministry stretched far beyond his parish with an open door policy as he embraced all those in need. He is a friend to all and encouraged his parishioners to embrace Ecumenism. His association with the Corowa Ministers' Fraternal is testament to his commitment. He encouraged our involvement in community church services that included all denominations."

Mrs Milthorpe said the community would remember Fr Paul for his care and concern of people confined to their home, in hospital or nursing homes.

"He will also be remembered for his empathy and understanding of those families suffering grief and loss. He was available at any time to sit with and comfort those who needed comforting and anoint loved ones."

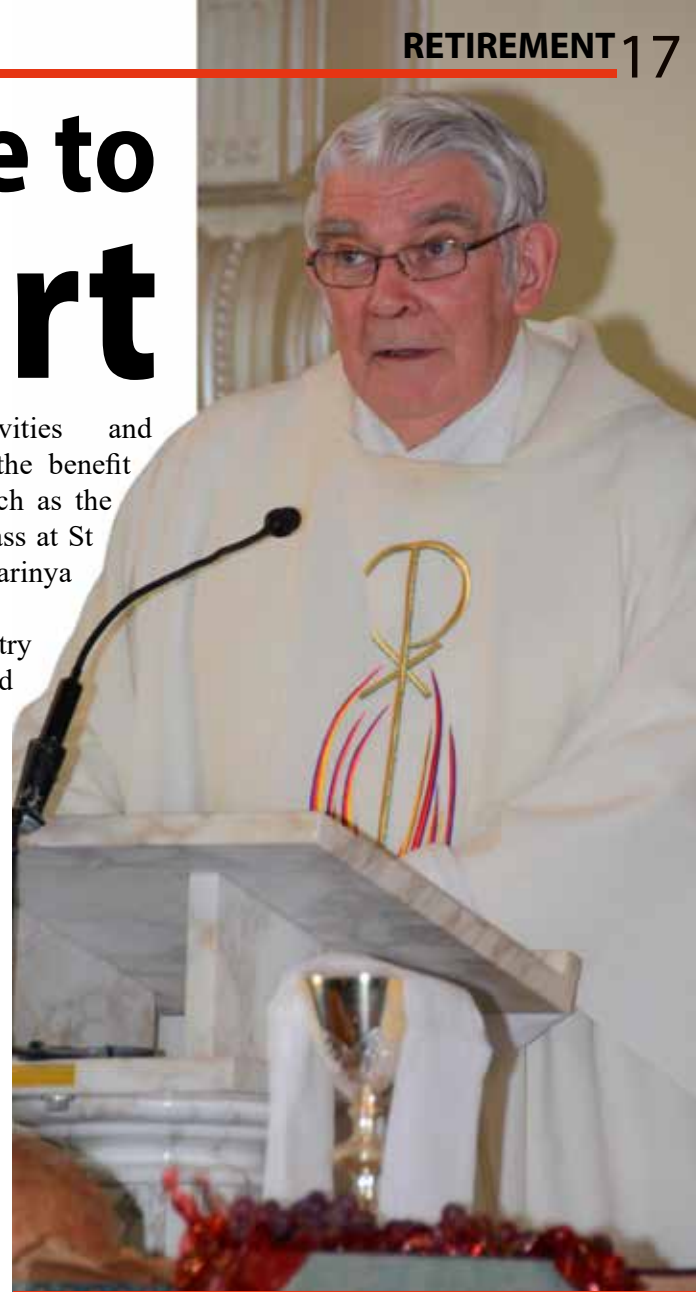
Fr Hart has a well-deserved reputation for his sweet tooth. "Perhaps it was the legendary reputation that the Catholic Women's League ladies had for providing a delicious afternoon tea that drew Fr Paul so religiously to their meetings," Mrs Milthorpe speculated.

Fr Hart said his priestly journey had included many highlights such as celebrating his Silver Jubilee at Finley and his 40th anniversary in Corowa in 2010.

He said it was Christ's life-giving message that carried the priest as he travelled the journey of life and faith, of joy and sadness.

"Christ is key to relationships forged when supporting others in need including those who come to the door during hard times and in need of a word of hope or other assistance," Fr Hart said.

Fr Hart has retired to live at Bishop Joseph Dwyer Village in Wagga.



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Father Anthony Schipp hits the road

After 45 years as a priest in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, Father Anthony (Tony) Schipp retired in July. While he may have retired from parish ministry Fr Schipp is hoping to take on a 'mobile' ministry as the first Catholic chaplain to the grey nomad community.

Fr Tony plans to hit the road in his newly acquired mobile home and minister to Catholic grey nomads or supply in parishes - wherever he is needed.

"The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) has an official chaplain who is a retired Anglican priest from Brisbane but they have never had a Catholic chaplain so I will be offering my services to their chapters all over Australia," Fr Tony said.

Lockhart and Urana parishes combined to farewell Fr Schipp who was appointed Parish Priest of Lockhart and Urana in 2014.

On Sunday 23 July Fr Schipp's alma mater, St Francis de Sales College, Leeton joined with the Catholic parish of Leeton to acknowledge his retirement and contribution to the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.

Born and raised in Leeton, Fr Tony

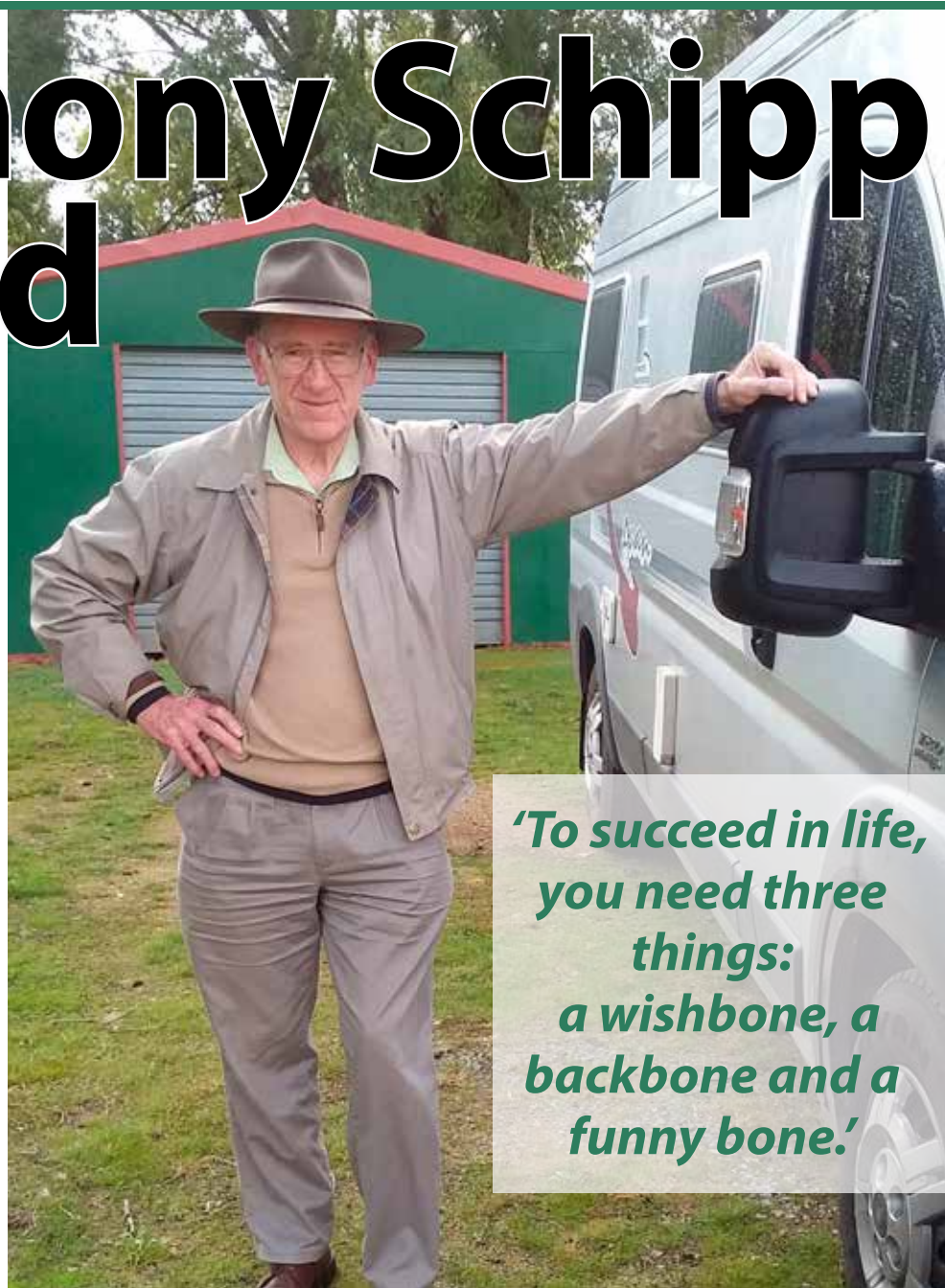
was the first St Francis' College ex-student to be ordained a priest and was "dux" of the college in his final year. He worked at the Leeton Cannery, the Lands Department in Narrandera and the Commonwealth Bank before applying to be a candidate for the priesthood.

After studying at St Columba's Seminary, Springwood and St Patrick's Seminary at Manly, Fr Tony was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Francis Carroll at St Joseph's, Leeton on 2 September, 1972. He was also the first priest to be ordained in St Joseph's Church.

He served in parishes including Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Junee, Darlington Point-Coleambally, St Patrick's Albury, Howlong, Leeton and Narrandera.

The back roads of Australia are not unfamiliar to Fr Tony. In 1995 he took time off to ride his BMW motorbike around Australia. His seven-month sojourn finished in Western Australia where he served at the Bullsbrook parish near Perth, for four and a half years.

After concelebrating his retirement Mass in Leeton, Fr Tony spoke with typical humour and grace about the



'To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.'

three things he believes are needed to achieve success in life and help provide a framework for moving forward through difficult times:

'To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a

funny bone.'

Before embarking on his next ministry, Fr Tony is enjoying a well-earned holiday visiting family and friends around Australia.

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Tongan Cardinal visits Griffith

Tonga’s first Cardinal, Soane Patita Paini Cardinal Mafi was principal celebrant and special guest for the first anniversary celebrations of the opening of the St John Paul II Perpetual Adoration Chapel in Griffith in July.

It was the first visit to Griffith by Cardinal Mafi who was appointed by Pope Francis in 2015.

The combined voices of Griffith’s Tongan Choir and the Sacred Heart Parish Choir provided glorious harmonies for the anniversary Mass concelebrated by Fr Andrew Grace, parish priest and Fr Christian Obiekwe, assistant priest.

The St John Paul II Perpetual Adoration Chapel was installed last year in the Sacred Heart parish hall next to the church.

The day was a truly multicultural celebration as Cardinal Mafi led the Holy Rosary procession while members of the Tongan community wearing traditional dress carried the statue of the Sacred Heart.

Sister Maybelle and Sister Siony of



Photo by Getty Images

the Missionary Apostles of Christ in the Eucharist (MACE) community, based in Griffith, coordinated children from local schools to pray a decade of the Rosary and decorate the hundreds of roses which adorned the hall.

The joyful celebration culminated in a magnificent luncheon where guests were entertained by well-known magician and comedian, Martin Ralph from Melbourne. Congratulations and thanks were offered to students from Marian College, Griffith as well as parishioners and sponsors who helped prepare and serve the delicious meal.

A souvenir program and DVD of the event is available from Sacred Heart Parish with all proceeds going to Cardinal Mafi’s appeal to build a new church in Tonga. Please contact the parish office on (02) 6962 1533 to order a copy.



CSO Director set to retire

Alan Bowyer, Director of Schools for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, has announced he will retire at the end of 2017.



“After 44 years of teaching, the last 32 in Catholic education all within the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, it is time for me to move on to other things,” Mr Bowyer said in statement.

Mr Bowyer will have completed 11 years as Director of Schools for the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) by December 2017.

“I have been blessed to be able to work within the Diocese and have loved every minute of working in education, driven by the motivation of doing what is possible to benefit teacher and student wellbeing and learning,” Mr Bowyer said in a statement.

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Sue Dunbar and Liz Anne Smith are co-directors of a program which trains/forms new spiritual directors in Canberra and surrounding regions. The second cohort of graduands is soon to complete the second three-year ecumenical program in spiritual direction training - Soul Journey Companions.

A new cohort will begin in 2018. If you are interested in embarking on such a learning journey please have a look at their website www.spiritualdirectiontrainingact.org.au

There will be an information night on Wednesday 20 September at the offices of Barnabas Ministries, St Andrews House, 1 State Circle, Forrest, ACT.

This evening is for interested people to meet the co-directors and to find out more about the program.

If you are planning to attend or for further information, please contact: Sue Dunbar on (02) 6295 6766; email: suedunbar53@yahoo.com or call Liz Anne Smith on 0409987401 or email lizanne24@gmail.com



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St Francis de Sales College's magnificent new windows

These magnificent stained glass windows in the chapel at St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton were created by Leeton glazier, Wayne Kook as a tribute to the college's founders and the local Indigenous community.

The leadlight windows were installed into the newly refurbished college chapel in June.

Wayne Kook, an accomplished artist in stained glass creations, approached the college about 'doing something' which would be a legacy from him to the school where his grandchildren are students.

Wayne worked closely with Janice Drew, the college's Coordinator of Mission and Faith (and ex-student of St Francis) to create the three panels which sparkle in the light, especially the five stars representing the Southern Cross.

The windows pay homage to Marcellin Champagnat (the founder of the Marist Brothers who built St Francis College which opened in 1956) and St Mary MacKillop of the Cross (the founder of the Sisters of St Joseph who took over the running of St Francis in 1983). The centre panel recognises the local Wiradjuri people in the form of an Indigenous cross bearing the colours of St Francis' four House groups: Champagnat (Green); Henschke (Red); Lacey (Yellow) and Tenison (Blue). Much thought went into tying the three images together with an Australian theme of gum leaves and the Southern Cross.

"The college community is extremely grateful to Wayne for his expertise and generosity as he requested that the school only pay for materials and he didn't charge for the enormous number of hours he spent

creating this wonderful spectacle," Janice Drew said.

"The three windows are now a major icon in the school reflecting our Catholic identity and adding further insight into our story: 'It is great to know where we are going but just as important to know where we came from'.

"Students, staff and parents alike have been inspired by the spectacular windows as they are a focal point behind the altar and many have commented on how much they have added to the sacredness of this space especially for our weekly masses and special liturgies."



Wayne Kook directing Janice Drew with glass and colour choice for the three stained glass panels for St Francis de Sales College chapel in Leeton.



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