



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

SEPTEMBER 2018

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## A Priestly Ordination

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# The joy of vocations to the priesthood in a hostile world

**Dear Friends in Christ,**  
**The ordination of two of our young men to the priesthood on 7th September 2018 is a great joy for the Archdiocese.**

Frs. Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan have co-discerned with us over a long period of time that the gentle call of the Holy Spirit deep within them is, indeed, a call to the ministerial priesthood. They have pledged total commitment to exercise the priesthood of Jesus Christ as priests in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn all the

*successor will die a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild a society as the church has done so often in human history."*

Let us hope this is an exaggeration! However, it may be seen as the consequence of a State making laws beyond its competence. Yet, history has shown that young people will be drawn all the more to the priesthood and religious life in a society that starts to persecute religious believers.

**The challenges are many and the societal context looks bleak. But we are people of hope and courage. Our shared Catholic faith can grow so much when under pressure.**

days of their life. May the Lord Jesus and Mary, the mother of all priests, strengthen their resolve in both the good and challenging times ahead  
 In regard to the challenging times ahead, I am reminded of a very strong statement made some years ago by a former Cardinal Archbishop of Chicago in USA who was not one to make strong statements.  
 Cardinal Francis George (1937 – 2015), in reflecting on being a bishop in the increasingly hostile world for religious belief in the Western world of today had this to say:  
*"I expect to die in my bed. My successor will die in prison. His*

Please encourage priesthood vocations for our Archdiocese. You have all been most generous in giving monies for the education of our seminarians. Thank you so much. Can I impose on your generosity further to encourage vocations in your own families and friends. I would be so pleased to have many more vocations.  
 For those interested, please contact my Vocations Director, Fr Paul Nulley paul.nulley@cg.org.au to seek further advice and direction.  
 Later this year, I will be happy to ordain, please God, to the (transitional) Diaconate, Alexander Osbourne.  
 I am also so happy to announce

**Archbishop Christopher Prowse**  
 Apostolic Administrator  
 of the Wagga Wagga Diocese



that Fr Loi Viovicente, our Filipino parish priest of Page and Aranda, has been incardinated into the Archdiocese.  
 The times are tough for religious belief. The challenges are many and the societal context looks bleak. But we are people of hope and courage. Our shared Catholic faith can grow so much when under pressure. The Holy Spirit is with us more than ever before because our needs are so

great.  
 In this Year of Youth, and in the lead up to the Plenary Council of Australia (2020/2021), and in the aftermath of the Royal Commission, let us all do what Jesus asks of us and *"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."* (Luke 5/4)  
**See page 4 for the ordination of Marco Killingsworth on 29th August 2018 in the Diocese of Wagga Wagga.**



*Frs. Namora Anderson and Adrian Chan when ordained to the diaconate by Archbishop Prowse.*



*Diocese of Wagga Wagga's two newest priests Fr Lu and Fr Killingsworth with Archbishop Prowse.*

## TOGETHER

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## Prayer Intention for September

**Universal: Young People in Africa**  
 That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**

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

## Pray with Pope Francis

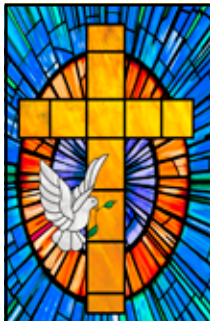
### Points for meditation

*When I hear news about our young Christian brothers and sisters in Africa, do I prayerfully reflect on it?  
 What can I learn from the youth of Africa about the richness, the joy and the hope that Christian faith gives us?*

### Scripture

*Mt. 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."*

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



## Prayer for the election of a Bishop

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern Your flock with unfailing care, grant in Your

boundless fatherly love a Bishop for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga who will please You by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



# Pope calls for solidarity and penance in letter on abuse crisis

Pope Francis has written a letter to the whole People of God addressing the ongoing crisis of sexual abuse in the Church.

by Christopher Wells  
Vatican News

## **"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it."**

These words, taken from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, struck the key note for Pope Francis in an impassioned letter addressed to the whole People of God.

The letter comes in response to an ongoing crisis of sexual abuse by "a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons" – crimes that were covered up and perpetuated by those who should have been protecting the vulnerable. In particular, the Holy Father referred to a report released by a Grand Jury in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania which, he wrote, "detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years."

However, despite being occasioned by the recent scandals, the Director of the Holy See Press Office, Greg Burke insisted that the letter was meant for the whole Church. "This is about Ireland, this is about the United States, and this is about Chile. But not only. Pope Francis has written to the People of God – and that means everyone."

## **Abandoning the little ones**

In his letter, the Holy Father speaks of the realization that the "wounds" caused by abuse "never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death." He admits that the Church has failed to deal adequately with the crisis of abuse. "With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives," the Pope says. "We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them."

Pope Francis calls for solidarity with those who have been abused. "Such a solidarity," he said, "demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers

the integrity of the person." It is a solidarity, "that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption."

The Pope also notes that the Church has delayed in applying the "actions and sanctions" that are necessary for the implementation of a "zero tolerance" policy, but said he is "confident that" those actions and sanctions "will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and the future."

## **Conversion, prayer, and fasting**

Pope Francis calls on all the baptized to be a part of the "ecclesial and social change we so greatly need." This change, he continued, requires "personal and communal conversion." And in order to experience that "conversion of heart," he encouraged "the entire faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting" – a reference to our Lord's words in Matthew 17:21 that "this kind [of demon] does not come out except by prayer and fasting." Greg Burke explained, "Pope Francis says greater accountability is urgently needed, not only for those who committed these crimes, but also for those who covered them up – which in many cases means Bishops."

## **A response from the whole Church**

The Holy Father emphasizes that the present crisis demands a response from the whole Church as a body. "Consequently, the only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God." This response requires the "active participation of all the Church's members," and "will be helped by the penitential dimension of fasting and prayer."

Pope Francis says, "It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others."

## **Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis To the People of God**

*"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it"* (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.

## **1. If one member suffers...**

In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realized that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death; these wounds never go away. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side he stands. Mary's song is not mistaken and continues quietly to echo throughout history. For



the Lord remembers the promise he made to our fathers: "he has scattered the proud in their conceit; he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty" (Lk 1:51-53). We feel shame when we realize that our style of life has denied, and continues to deny, the words we recite.

With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them. I make my own the words of the then Cardinal Ratzinger when, during the Way of the Cross composed for Good Friday 2005, he identified with the cry of pain of so many victims and exclaimed: "How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]! How much pride, how much self-complacency! Christ's betrayal by his disciples, their unworthy reception of his body and blood, is certainly the greatest suffering endured by the Redeemer; it pierces his heart. We can only call to him from the depths of our hearts: Kyrie eleison – Lord, save us! (cf. Mt 8:25)" (Ninth Station).

## **2. ...all suffer together with it**

The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary on every journey of conversion to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit.

If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history. And this in an environment where conflicts, tensions and above all the victims of every type of abuse can encounter an outstretched hand to protect them and rescue them from their pain (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 228). Such solidarity demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption. The latter is "a comfortable and self-satisfied form of blindness. Everything then appears acceptable: deception, slander, egotism and other subtle forms of self-centeredness, for 'even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light' (2 Cor 11:14)" (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 165). Saint Paul's exhortation to suffer with those who suffer is the best antidote against all our attempts to repeat the words of Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen 4:9).

I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future.

Together with those efforts, every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal

*continued on page 17...*



# Ordination to the Priesthood



All photos by Matt Humphrey

**The Celebrant of the Mass and Ordination was Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Apostolic Administrator of the Wagga Wagga Diocese.** Most of the priests of the diocese concelebrated with the Archbishop, and by the laying on of hands and the sign of peace, symbolically welcomed the new priest into their ranks.

The deacons and seminarians of the diocese, as well as a large crowd of people from many of the parishes of the diocese, also showed their prayerful support by filling the Cathedral and fully participating in the Ordination Liturgy. The presence of Father Marco's brothers and sisters added extra joy and significance to the celebration.

Tribute must once again be paid to Mr. John Sloan, who directed the music, and to the Serrans, who provided practical

support including the serving of the supper afterwards.

On the following evening, Father Killingsworth celebrated his first Mass as a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at Thurgoona in Albury. This parish was home to Marco before he entered the seminary and, for this reason, many old friends and acquaintances were able to share the newly ordained priest's joy by their participation and good wishes. Many people lined up after mass to receive Father Marco's blessing.

A summary of Father Marco's life can be found in Archbishop Prowse's homily below.

### Homily

Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn  
Priestly Ordination of Marco Killingsworth

St Michaels Cathedral,  
Wagga Wagga  
Wednesday 29th August 2018  
Readings  
Jeremiah 1:17-19  
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13  
Gospel: John 15:9-17

We give praise and thanks to God tonight for the Priestly Ordination of our dear brother Marco Killingsworth. Marco comes from a large family and studied up to Year 12 at the Christian Brothers College, St Kilda in Melbourne. After this, he completed a trade in cabinet making and ran his own business. In those years, he alternated between cabinet making and running a gardening business for many years.

Marco is one of eight children – four boys and four girls. He also spent some earlier years of his life living with his family at Wattle Park in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, not far

The Ordination to the Priesthood of Father Marco Killingsworth in St Michael's Cathedral on the evening of Wednesday 29 August was a joyful, yet prayerful, occasion.



*Clockwise from top left: Marco is "called forth".  
The promise of obedience.  
Marco prostrates during the Litany of the Saints.  
The Archbishop first lays hands on Marco.  
Each priest present lays hands.*



from where I myself come from. He has always maintained a prayer life in his personal life and from this discipline of prayer, he felt a deeper calling towards the priesthood. After spending a short period of time here in Wagga, he then left and lived and volunteered in different activities over a five year period in Albury.

Yet the call to the priesthood continued to draw him deep within himself. He then joined Vianney College Seminary and has remained there for seven years. He found the studies difficult but was extremely pleased to understand his faith more fully though the academic work.

*continued on page 5...*



*continued from page 4...*

The seminary was the place where the calling to the priesthood became even stronger. He likes to talk about, 'taking God seriously'. Marco has a particular devotion to the suffering Christ on the Calvary Cross. At the deepest level, Marco believes that the number one solution to the world's problems is that we can carry our crosses to the Lord Jesus. He has been strengthened in this belief through his pastoral work in Griffith, Howlong, Coolamon and Albury.

On this day particularly we recall the Passion of John the Baptist who in many ways through our Tradition is seen as the one who foreshadowed the suffering and death of the Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that as John the Baptist foreshadowed the Lord's Calvary death, that Marco will, with the grace of God, continue the suffering of Christ for the ongoing redemption of the world in our time and place.

Marco will continue the work of our Redeemer most humbly by drawing inspiration from this evening's scripture readings.

The Gospel reminds us eloquently that any following

of Christ, but particularly in the priesthood, must be expressed by 'remaining' in the love of Jesus, our High Priest and Victim. This 'Laying down of life' in the priesthood is expressed solely through the power of 'love one to another'. It is a power of service, and only service, to the Holy Mysteries entrusted to us. Any other type of power can as easily become poisoned, criminal and even diabolical, as we all know too well through the sex abuse scandals of our day.

But Marco, through your love of Christ Crucified, you will be used as priest-servant by the Lord for his greater glory, especially in the administration of the Sacraments, preaching and pastoral care of the people entrusted to you. In so doing this in the grace given to you, as St Paul in the Second Reading explains, you will 'preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together' with the presbyterate gathered around you tonight and all the wonderful People of God of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. **Dear Marco, always be courageous like St John the Baptist and be a unifier in the priesthood which is now conferred upon you.**



*Fr Marco (our newest priest) being congratulated by Fr Plunkett (one of our oldest priests).*



*Above: Father Marco concelebrates Mass with the Archbishop and fellow priests.*

*Left: Fr Marco's family were in attendance.*

*Right: Father Marco ministers Holy Communion with the Archbishop.*

*Below: "Tu es sacerdos in aeternum" The newly ordained priest is congratulated by the Archbishop and fellow priests as he leaves the cathedral.*







# Homeless tragedy demands action

## SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2018-19

**The Australian Catholic Bishops have registered their deep concern over the alarming growth in the problem of homelessness and insecure housing in Australia today.**

In their Social Justice Statement 2018-19, *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*, the Bishops call on Australians to look beyond the immediate challenges of the average household budget, to consider those who are homeless or facing housing stress because of skyrocketing rents and property prices.

In a letter to parishes around Australia, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president, Archbishop Mark Coleridge, writes: “It seems hard to believe that in a rich nation such as ours, the latest Census figures show that the number of Australians who are homeless has grown to more than 116,000.

“House prices and even rents are spiralling out of reach of too many families and placing huge financial stress on ordinary people, even when they are employed. For those living on pensions or allowances, finding secure housing can be a far greater challenge – one that often takes a terrible toll on social wellbeing and mental health.”

In his foreword to the Statement, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council chairman, Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen, writes that a ruthless housing market is leaving people struggling to find secure and affordable housing, whether they live in cities or in regional areas.

“That struggle has a corrosive

effect on family life, on employment, on study and on our capacity to contribute to and benefit from our society. At its worst, the struggle leaves the vulnerable in our society homeless – sleeping on the street, in cars or in doorways, or hoping for a space on someone’s couch or floor.”

The Statement draws on Jesus’ famous parable of the Good Samaritan, reminding us that we have the same experience as the Samaritan: we see people in the street in need of help, wounded by violence, misfortune or poverty. We face the same choice: do we walk past or do we stop and help?

“Behind the people on the streets is another legion – those who are battling to keep the roof over their heads, wondering if they can make the next rent or mortgage payment,” writes Bishop Long. “Often, these are people who are employed but whose income is barely enough – or not enough – to keep themselves and their families housed and fed.

“The Bishops emphasise that housing is a human right, asserted by documents like the UN Declaration of Human Rights and by the teachings of our Church. Housing, the Bishops say, is ‘an essential entitlement for all people to meet their basic needs, flourish in community and have their inherent human dignity affirmed and upheld by others’.

“That human right and the call of the Church has been reinforced by the words and example of Pope Francis, who has made it a priority to reach out to the disadvantaged and marginalised of Rome, including homeless people.”

The Statement puts out the challenge, writes Bishop Long, “to confront an economy that has allowed housing to become out of the reach of so many; to reach out, like the Samaritan, to the wounded and helpless; and to call on our governments to make hard decisions that will allow everyone in our communities to find secure accommodation.”

The Statement considers the tragedy of homelessness within the broader housing affordability crisis. Having a place to call home means much more than having shelter from the elements. It is about personal security and wellbeing, the social and economic base of living, the formation of families and kinship, and the development of personal and social identity.

Such essential qualities of having a place to call home are at risk where competitive economic valuation reduces housing to be simply a commodity to be traded and where unreasonable cost excludes people.

The Statement highlights the plight of particular groups, particularly those living in poverty and people experiencing problems in health and family welfare such as domestic violence and mental illness.

Other people facing the crisis include unemployed and low-paid workers and older people reliant on low fixed incomes, as well as an emerging cohort of older single women in unaffordable rental accommodation.

The Statement asks: “How have so many people come to be on the streets of such a rich nation? And how is it that housing has

become so unaffordable that it excludes increasing numbers of Australians?”

Just as in the parable of the Good Samaritan, social and political divisions remain a feature of our society.

“We too live in a divided society – one in which we can so easily cross to the other side of the road. Jesus challenges us as individuals and as a nation. Will Australia let its heart go out to the homeless or will we continue to walk past? Can we be like the good Samaritan who bridges the divide and addresses both the symptoms and causes of distress?

“In the face of entrenched homelessness in such a prosperous nation, it is time for Australia to reassert the true value of housing as a human right that is fundamental to individual and family wellbeing. All are our neighbours – all are owed this right.”

The Statement traces the evolution of a nation that once prided itself on its high levels of home ownership to one that now lags behind many other nations in terms of housing affordability.

“In 1947, 52 per cent of Australians owned their own homes. By the mid-1960s, that proportion had grown to 72 per cent. Since that time, however, home ownership rates have fallen to around 65 per cent.

“Since the early 1990s, the greatest decline in home ownership has been for people in the prime of their working lives. It is likely that an increasing number of people currently under 55 years of age will enter their retirement not owning a home or still paying off a mortgage.”

The situation is getting worse, with increases in house prices far outpacing average earnings. All households are spending more of their income on housing, particularly the poorest 20 per cent.

“Increasingly we hear stories of low- and middle-income workers who provide essential services to the community being pushed further to the fringes of urban centres because of the high costs of home ownership and renting. They face long commutes to work, rising rents and the likelihood of future house moves or job changes.”

The Statement lists overly limited supply and increased demand as a result of population increases; negative gearing; capital gains tax concessions; and investor demand as reasons for the trend.

“More middle-income households are feeling the pinch as the costs of home ownership have risen. People are servicing huge debts and affordable rental housing is harder to find.

“While an overpriced market has undermined the great Australian dream, we must remember that low-income households – the most vulnerable of our fellow citizens – face a seemingly unending nightmare of homelessness. If Australia is experiencing a housing crisis, it is facing a homelessness tragedy.”

It is estimated that 875,000 households now experience housing stress – having to pay more than 30 per cent of their income on accommodation. Low-income households are particularly at risk: half of those in the private rental market are experiencing rental stress. This has been exacerbated by the increased number of people entering private rental as home ownership becomes less affordable.

The Statement points out that there is a dramatic shortage of community and social housing. “Australia needs more than 270,000 extra affordable homes for low-income households. Currently there are almost 39,000 people on community housing waiting lists and more than 150,000 people on the waiting lists for state-owned social housing.”

Specialist homelessness services are struggling to meet demand for emergency accommodation and support. While these vital services assisted almost 290,000 people in 2017, they were unable to respond to over 53,000 requests for help.

Poorly resourced government housing assistance is failing to address the problem.

The Bishops point out that homelessness involves significant social and economic costs not just for those it affects but also for society as a whole. Some studies have

*continued on page 23...*





# La Piccola Famiglia

by Christeena Slee

Archangel, I feel it necessary to help protect me and keep the devil away.

-We need to live a LIVING FAITH, not a static faith, but a living faith.

-And we especially need the EXAMPLE of HOLY PRIESTS to help guide the people, like the shepherd with the sheep.

-We need to have a DEEP HUMILITY, all of the Saints had a deep humility, without humility, how can we have the other virtues? Be humble!

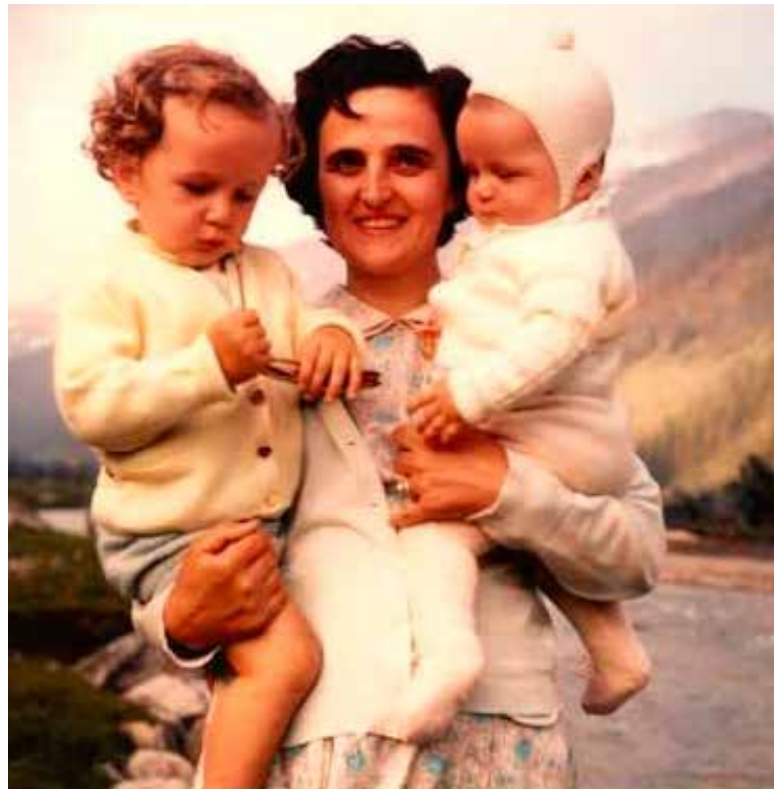
-Surround yourselves with holiness! We need to surround ourselves with inspirational prayerful people - family and friends. I am so happy to have such an example of my parents, a Saint mother and my father, a holy man I lived with for 50 years. Also a Saint sister, who died at the age of 6 years old. Mum and Dad for me they are like bright lights that guide my steps, in everything I pray, please help me. Also for the most simple things, our life is made of simple things, not big things, but small things realize the big!

My sister and I felt so blessed and humbled to spend time with Gianna Emanuela, such a beautiful, holy inspirational woman. **It was such an awesome experience and we love telling our family and friends we got to spend time with and received a hug from the daughter of a Saint!**

*We need to have a DEEP HUMILITY, all of the Saints had a deep humility, without humility, how can we have the other virtues? Be humble!*



Visit with Gianna Emanuela in Italy



Saint Gianna Boretta Molla with two of her children.

The grotto in Lourdes, France.

**In May, my sister, Nellie and I were very blessed to be able to go to Lourdes, France.**

The place where our Blessed Mother appeared in the grotto to Saint Bernadette in 1858 and revealed, 'I am the Immaculate Conception.' Our Lady also asked for a chapel to be built and processions to be had and to drink the water of the spring. Lourdes is now a place of pilgrimage, where daily thousands of people come.

We were part of an Italian group called, 'La Piccola Famiglia'- meaning 'little family'. This group of volunteers assisted around one hundred children and adults with disabilities to be pilgrims in Lourdes for five days. There were nurses to help tend the more unwell pilgrims at the hospital, some to pull the wheelchair trolleys with the pilgrims, others to serve food and tend to their needs.

Our job was working in the Holy Spring baths, where pilgrims wait and pray in line for hours to have the opportunity to pray and go into the waters, many praying for spiritual and physical healings. Before our work began all the volunteers gathered to pray a multi-lingual Rosary, for in that time there were volunteers from England, Peru, France, Malta, Italy and us two Australians. Then dressed in our aprons and ID badges (with name and organization) we were allocated to a team leader.

Most days we worked in the family room where there were mothers and young children but I also had the opportunity of assisting people on stretchers being lowered into the waters.

It was a humbling and amazing experience to pray with the pilgrims and be present with them in such a special moment as they went into the holy waters of Lourdes.

Another highlight was the candle lit procession, thousands of pilgrims, many in wheelchairs, all with candles alight praying and singing in procession for Our Blessed Mother, it was such a peace filled and powerful evening.

We were also very blessed to be able to attend Mass at the grotto one dawn, in the rain with a Filipino Bishop. His sermon was very powerful and he pointed out and stated that "people visiting Lourdes, want to bring some of Lourdes- the grotto, the water, Our Lady and the peace that is felt whilst there back home. Lourdes is a special place for all but especially those who are ill and those who have disabilities. The wheel chairs are not like those ones that are pushed, but are pulled and those that serve are like the humble horses that pull the carriage. So how does one bring back some of Lourdes? One ought to bring it in one's heart. Back home in our own countries, there are many in need, who are often ignored. But for one to bring back some of Lourdes, it is to bring joy and love to those back home and especially the sick, people with disabilities, the elderly and the young".

After our amazing time in Lourdes we traveled to Rome and Italy, there were many amazing aspects of our travels. Rome and the Vatican- so amazing. We went on the night walk of the Churches

of Saint Philip Neri, (25km in one night- so solemn, exhilarating and just a tad exhausting) and to Assisi, following the footsteps of Saint Francis and Saint Claire- such a peaceful and prayerful place to experience.

In Italy, we were blessed to be able to stay with friends of mine from mission and even more blessed to meet up with Sr Pat and Maristella from the Cuori Grandi mission in Togo. In visiting, Magenta, the home town of Maristella, we were able to walk in the footsteps of Saint Gianna Boretta Molla, who also comes from this town.

Saint Gianna is a modern day Saint (died in 1962), she was a paediatrician, a wife and mother. When Saint Gianna was pregnant with her fourth child, there were issues and she chose to not have an abortion to save her own life, but to sacrifice her life for her baby. She said to her family, 'If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child, I insist on it, save the baby.' Gianna Emanuela was born 21st April 1962 and Saint Gianna died one week later, she was canonized a Saint in 2004 and present at her canonization was her husband and children.

We were blessed to visit the Cathedral where Saint Gianna was baptized and later married in, the chapel in Ponte Nuova, where she often prayed and where her funeral was held. We were also able to visit the Molla family tomb, where Saint Gianna is buried alongside her husband, Pietro (died in 2010) and her daughter Maria Zita (known as Mariolina who died at age 6 in

1964).

An absolute highlight of our time in Magenta, we had the opportunity to meet with and spend an hour with Gianna Emanuela, the daughter saved by her Saint mother, Saint Gianna Boretta Molla. What an inspiring woman, a doctor herself, who helped care for her father in his final years and now helps spread the pro life message of her Saint mother.

**Here are some of the key messages she shared with us:**

-PRAY, we need prayer. So much prayer is needed- especially to keep the devil far from us, far far away. Wear holy medals, I wear a medal of my Saint Mother, Our Lady and Saint Michael the





# DRUM BEAT

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- Drumming games with analogies
- Discussions linked to healthy relationships
- Performance

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**For information on cost of Drumbeat, please contact Centacare 1300 619 379**



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**What is our Catholic identity?**

**2018 CWL Queensland STATE CONFERENCE**

**September 14 - 17 BURDEKIN**

*Everyone is welcome*  
There is so much to see and do in the Burdekin, so bring along your husband/partner and make the weekend a wonderful and memorable getaway. We have arranged a number of activities for husbands/partners not attending the conference.

*Things to do...*  
Birdwatching  
Lawn bowls  
Fishing  
Golf Club  
Heritage Walks  
Juru Walking Trail

*and see...*  
Artspace Gallery - Local Art Gallery  
Ashworths - Treasures of the Earth Rock Display & Jewellery  
Art Nature Display - Australian zoology in an artistic display  
Bi-centennial Fountain  
Burdekin Bridge "Silver Link"  
Burdekin Falls Dam  
Burdekin Library  
Burdekin Machinery Preservationists Display  
Burdekin Prawn Farm  
Burdekin Theatre  
Charlie's Mill - WWI historic site  
Cane Cutters - Giant Sculptures  
Gubulla Munda - Giant Snake Sculpture  
Brandon Heritage Precinct  
Machinery Preservation and Historical Display  
Hutchings Lagoon  
Lillesmere Lagoon Wetlands  
Lions Diorama  
Living Lagoon Sculptures  
Lyndy's Beach, Alva  
Mt Inkerman Lookout  
Mt Kelly Lookout  
Murals  
and more...

**Conference Schedule**

Friday	14	Opening Mass 5:30pm Meet & Greet 6:30pm @ Burdekin Theatre Foyer
Saturday	15	Conference Saturday Evening Formal Dinner
Sunday	16	Conference Sunday Evening Closing Mass & BBQ
Monday	17	Touring the Burdekin district

Transfers available Friday from Airport to Ayr

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## Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

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- Darlington Point and Colleambally
- Berrigan and Mulwala



All welcome to attend this **FREE EVENT** where local and guest speakers will address Medical, Pastoral & Ethical aspects of the issues covered by Pope Paul VI's landmark Encyclical. The afternoon will conclude with a Q&A Panel with an opportunity for audience participation.

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marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Humanae Vitae

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**PROGRAM**  
9:15am Mass Holy Spirit Church  
10am Tea & Coffee Holy Spirit Hall  
10:30am First Session  
12:30pm **BYO Shared Lunch**  
1pm Second Session  
3pm Finish

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\*As rated by independent ratings agency, SuperRatings.

# Rosary in the Park



## ROSARY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER  
11AM-2PM  
VICTORY MEMORIAL GARDENS

For more information ring:  
0429315810

For many years the Legion of Mary has hosted the annual Rosary in the Park at the Victory Memorial Gardens. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as Catholics with the common goal of publicly witnessing to the fullness of the truth and praying for every individual and the world as a whole in the intentions, through the powerful prayers of the rosary.

If you can't be there for all of it, perhaps consider participating in at least one of the rosaries. This year it is happening on Saturday the

13th October, starting at 11am and concluding at 2pm.

**The four mysteries will be prayed for the following intentions:**

1. For the defence of marriage as a union between a man and a woman and for the safeguarding of families.
2. For an end to abortion and euthanasia.
3. For world leaders to rule with wisdom and justice, for peace in the world and especially for an end to the persecution of Christians.
4. For the conversion of sinners and in reparation for sins.

5. The leader for each Rosary should announce the intention before beginning the prayers.

**The agenda for the day:**

- 11am address by the Spiritual Director
- Hymn
- The Joyful Mysteries
- Hymn
- The Mysteries of Light
- Hymn
- 12-1pm Lunch Break
- Hymn
- The Sorrowful Mysteries
- Hymn
- The Glorious Mysteries
- Thank you address by the Spiritual Director
- 2pm Concluding Hymn



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# Sharing responsibility for the Church's future

by Fr Bernie Thomas

**Most of us who can now be labelled as 'churched' can remember what the Second Vatican Council did for the church in the Wagga Diocese.**

The second Vatican Council was a gathering of all the Bishops of the church in Rome in the early 1960's that looked afresh on what the church was and how it operated in the 'modern' world.

As was mentioned at the time, it opened the windows and let

fresh air into the church. The change in language was just a symbol of the change in a church that had become very staid and Roman.

In this diocese, a new energy and vitality blossomed. There was hope and promise with people of all ages involved and sharing in a sense of community, support and encouragement.

Now we have been given a chance to renew the present church with the Australian

Bishops calling for a Plenary Council and wide consultation in the lead up to it.

If you look in the pews of the present day you are hard pushed to find anyone under the age of 50 in spite of the success of things like Youth Days. What were the contributing factors that brought about the change?

Perhaps it was families having to become two income families that left little time for parents to interact with church or school.

Perhaps it was that shopping became a 24/7 commodity with open shops requiring staff and customers 7 days a week.

Perhaps the matters of the Royal Commission have had an effect.

Perhaps it was that faith was no longer caught but taught; to be found in books and not in people.

Perhaps the expression of the gospel was too moral and not spiritual.

Perhaps it was a decrease in the number of shepherds of the church which caused them not 'to get the smell of the sheep on them' (as Pope Francis puts it).

Perhaps the Australian Church was too Roman and lost touch with the Australian culture of which it is part.

Pope Francis has said, "We cannot demand that people of every continent, in expressing their Christian faith, imitate modes of expression which European nations developed in a particular moment of their

history because the faith cannot be constricted to the limits of understanding and expression of one culture" (*Joy of the Gospel*).

There could be numerous

in the sharing of our past and present that we can discern the course of the future and the voice of the Spirit.

To discern the future, both commendations and

**In this diocese, a new energy and vitality blossomed. There was hope and promise with people of all ages involved and sharing in a sense of community, support and encouragement.**

factors in the change and we cannot go back to the way things were 50 years ago but we have to start to reflect on the future of the church and to do this we have to come to grips with where the church is at now.

That is why the bishops of Australia have said, "The circumstances of the Church in Australia in our time, including the patterns of change that are in the community of the church, the issues confronting the Church...the increase in entrusting responsibility for leadership of the Church's mission to laity, and even the changing face of the Episcopate prompt the Church to review, analyse and discern the signs of the times, to listen anew to the Spirit and to chart its course into the future".

That is why it is important for people (especially those who are 'unchurched') to tell the story of their experience of faith and church. It is only

recommendations (positives and negatives) are necessary so that it doesn't just become a 'hate' session.

People might be reluctant to share, thinking that nothing will change.

But the consultation (Australia wide) is in the form of a Plenary Council because it has legislative and governance authority and its decisions can become part of Church Law in Australia.

This very significant provision would not be possible under any other structure.

People can share in groups, in families or individually. All the information is on the web site which you get by just googling 'Plenary Council 2020'.

**So, have your say and send your submission to [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) and also to [plenary2020@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:plenary2020@wagga.catholic.org.au) so that the Wagga diocese can benefit from your submission.**

## Plenary Council Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.*

*Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age.*

*Amen.*

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*




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# Plenary Council 2020: *Listening to the Spirit*

by Fr Bernie Thomas

**At first glance I thought it was a difficult thing to do and the question arose in my mind 'How do I listen to the Holy Spirit?'**

If I find it hard to listen to the Spirit then how much harder is it for the Church? How do I know if I am being guided by the Spirit or if it is just me, my imagination or me having a wish-list.

In my reflections I started by asking myself, "What were the pre-requisites

about religion, where does it fit in?

Ronald Rolheiser says, "...chief among these (misunderstandings about spirituality) is the idea that spirituality is something exotic, esoteric, and not something that issues forth from the bread and butter of ordinary life.... rarely is spirituality understood referring to something vital and non-negotiable lying at the heart of our lives..... long before we do anything explicitly religious at all we have to do something about the fire that burns within us. What

*"These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God". (1Cor. 210)*

for listening to the Spirit?"

My musings went something like this:

I am convinced that because I speak and understand spiritual things like love, generosity, forgiveness etc. then I am a spiritual person and I believe that I am made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis Ch.1).

If I am made in the image and likeness of God, then I do not wholly own myself although I have the true freedom to do what I want. I am spiritual as well as material.

This part of me that is spiritual is what makes me who I am.

As Richard J Gilmartin says "I believe (Spirituality) is really a rather simple thing, possessed often unwittingly by people regardless of race, culture, education, intelligence or religion. Spirituality is not something we acquire, rather it is at the very core of our being, natural to us.....in its simplest terms, spirituality can be defined as whatever calls us to transcendence." (*Pursuing Wellness-Finding Spirituality*.)

Ah, I thought, can we define the Holy Spirit as calling us beyond ourselves, beyond the material, to the transcendent.

Seems pretty good to me. But what

we do with that fire, how we channel it – is our spirituality.....what shapes our actions is our spirituality". (*Seeking Spirituality p.6-7*)

So, I don't have to look outside myself to listen to the Spirit. The Spirit is part of my make up (that 'Godly' part) and I must learn to listen to Him/Her.

But there are many things which shape who I am and what I do- parenting, family, culture, environment, friends, media etc etc.

How do I sort out which is the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?

My spirituality is shaped by the environment and nature (gumtrees, vastness, heat and dryness, flies and the different wild life), by mateship (with a questioning of authority), by my 'she'll be right' attitudes and my love of the under-dog.

If there is a dichotomy between my Australian way of life and my spirituality, I must reconcile the two so that I am a whole person.

My experience is that the Holy Spirit doesn't speak just one language and he speaks (I prefer to use 'inspires') more times out of church than in it.

I go to scripture for a grounding

in my understanding of my spirituality and my relationship with my God.

Rather than approaching it from a theological perspective (which we need to do also at times) I just let it wash over me – I carry it around for some days and eventually inspiration comes. Not often the first time, or second but if I carry it (whatever I want the inspiration in/for) long enough and with patience and openness, the inspiration always comes.

Prayer is also necessary because it is in prayer that I foster the unity between the spiritual and the material – where the two become so inter-twinned that they become one- and I mean prayer, not just saying prayers.

If I have the patience to give it time, if I am open enough to let the Spirit do what he needs to do and if I trust enough that he is in me, then the inspiration that comes from combining all the influences of my life is so strong that I know it is right.

It is my experience that if we are

honest with God, he will not let us down.

What I have said from a personal perspective, I believe we can also say for a church (People of God) perspective.

The church is both spiritual and material – made in the image and likeness of our God. So the Spirit is with us ("And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time" Mt. 28,20).

If we, as a people, are patient, humble, open, prayerful, honest and trusting we will hear the inspiration of the Spirit because it will be so captivating that we will know it is from God.



## 14th National eConference



Many of you came along to the 14th National eConference to discuss the upcoming Plenary Council which was held at the St Michael's Parish Centre on Wednesday 8 August.



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# PROJECT COMPASSION

## FOR A JUST FUTURE

# A just future starts with education

**Ditosa is a young girl from Mozambique who hopes to go to university and become a police officer.** Featured in Project Compassion 2013, Ditosa faced a challenging future with food scarcity, little education and few job prospects. Cared for by her grandmother and aunt, after her parents died of AIDS-related illnesses, they also lost their home and livelihoods in severe flooding.

Thanks to the support of Project Compassion, Caritas Australia and Caritas Regional Chokwe (CRC) helped Ditosa's

family to build a new house and assisted with transport fees, school materials and fees, to help Ditosa to stay at school.

Ditosa attended the Matuba Children's Centre (set up by Caritas in 2007) which provides vulnerable children, like Ditosa, with lunch, study help, and computer and income-generating skills training.

In 2018, Ditosa has graduated from school and is ambitious for the future.

"Without the support of the people from Australia and Caritas I would not have been

given this opportunity to continue my schooling."

Ditosa dreams of going to university to continue studying and secure an even brighter future.

**"I love to learn and want to be a police woman. Education is important in my life but I know that university is expensive, so if I can't go to the police academy I want to learn commercial science so that I can work in a bank."**- Ditosa

**If you would like to donate to Caritas Australia call 1800 024 413 or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)**



Above: Ditosa with other students who attend the Matuba Children's Centre and receive assistance with study help, lunch and income-generating skills such as jewellery-making.

Right: Ditosa's handy crafts she has learnt how to make at the Matuba Children's Centre, which she attends after school each day.



Ditosa with Mama Cacilda, Director of Caritas Regional Chokwe. All photos by: Caritas Australia



Raising livestock and growing vegetables  
The Matuba Children's Centre teaches students about raising livestock and growing vegetables, as well as providing tutoring and financial support for vulnerable youth to attend school.

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# My dear young friend

In 40 short letters, Archbishop Fisher seeks to respond to some of the questions so important to young people today...

In these letters written to young people, Sydney's Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP addresses the questions they have asked him over the years. Written in a personal, conversational style, they treat of many topics including vocation and discipleship, faith and truth, suffering and joy, relationships and inner peace.

At times, it can be difficult to speak with teens about the bigger questions in life. We know instinctively that, despite how they can be characterised by the media, young people are deep thinkers and natural doers, and we want to be able to encourage them in pursuit of highest ideals.

They have serious questions that need serious answers.

encourages them to read and re-read the ones that most capture their attention, and to "give the ones that bore you a miss".

"Ponder, puzzle, wrestle with them," he invites the young reader. "These are matters worth struggling with, laughing and crying over."

In the book, Archbishop Fisher does not just respond to questions, but also challenges young people to reject complacency and instead to strive for greatness.

"What next moves would make the most of me? In other words: what movie am I making with my choices and what is becoming of the main character?"

Addressing young people at the book launch recently, Archbishop Fisher

The book is an invaluable resource for teens, who will read in it questions they have asked themselves many times, and be affirmed that they are not the only ones who are pondering the big ideals.

"What is my life for? What are my passions, hopes and ideals? Where do I belong and get my identity and meaning? Where, ultimately, will I find that 'infinite joy' for which I was made and my heart craves?"

Speaking directly to the deepest desires of young students to do more and be more, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP identifies these questions and others as being those which occupy the hearts and minds of young people in the introduction to his new book, My Dear Young Friend.

In 40 short letters, Archbishop Fisher seeks to respond to some of the questions so important to young people today.

With letters on topics such as truth, vulnerability, friendship, leadership, the problem of suffering, fear, vocation, mercy and new beginnings, the Archbishop provides short but nourishing answers to the big questions of life.

The book was written in response to questions that young people have raised with Archbishop Fisher over the years, throughout his pastoral ministry.

Some of the questions, he realises, won't be relevant to everyone, so he

encouraged those present to aim high: "Not only should you think deep, you should also think big. Think in terms of your country, your Church, the whole natural world and the whole social world."

The book is an invaluable resource for teens, who will read in it questions they have asked themselves many times, and be affirmed that they are not the only ones who are pondering the big ideals.

**My Dear Young Friend is available at St Pauls Publications, The Mustard Seed Bookshop, Pauline Books and Media and other great Catholic bookstores. It is also available as an e-book on Kindle and iBooks.**



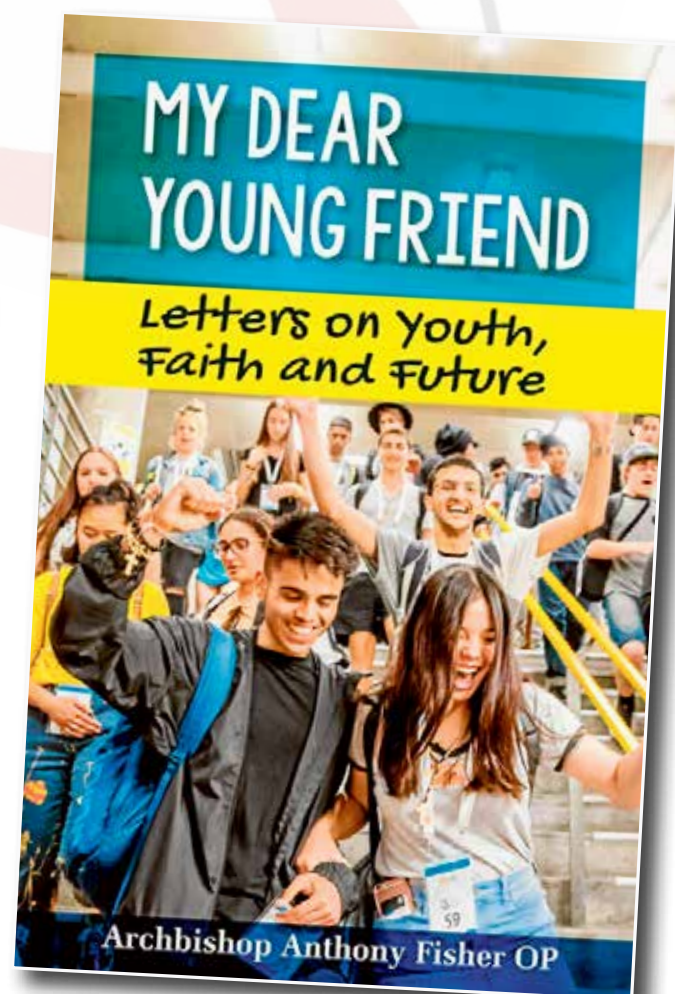
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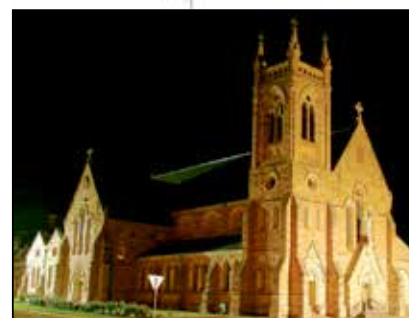


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# A new gift, a new Dad

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

*This is a tribute article to all the men. Especially those who have embraced what it means to have and behold masculinity in all its brilliance. We're not just talking men who are husbands and fathers who raise children of their own. We're talking those who care for children spiritually or otherwise, those who mentor people, those who teach and nourish, those who care for and support in all walks and states of life.*

**One of our own at Virtue Ministry became a first-time dad just a few months ago. We decided to turn the tables and interview Andrew Flores (Workshop Formator and Speaker).**

**How are you finding being a parent?**

It's wonderful, joyous, challenging, it makes me think of others a lot more than myself. Adelaide, my wife, and then I don't come next it's everyone else. Certain things that were trivial before are no longer, like going out, showering, being able to go to work. Oh! and prioritising is really at the forefront of everything! It's not 'what do I want to do?', it's more 'what needs to be done at home, for Adelaide and for Bernadette? (Andrew's wife)'. I thought getting married was different. I had to shift from just thinking about me to we, and since having



Adelaide, we both have shifted from we or us, to her!

**What did you expect vs what is it like being a parent?**

I expected a bit of a clockwork baby, one that would wake, want to play for a little while, feed, and fall straight back asleep. I had forgotten the finer details like now it takes half an hour extra to get out the door.

I am blessed with an extremely supportive work place that made it possible for me to attend all the appointments, and pre-birthing classes with Bernadette, allowing us to truly be in it together. It made me connect with Adelaide quickly too. When she was born, I thought it would happen straight away, but it was a process. Like I loved her so much in the womb, but I had to learn to love her in the ways she needed to be loved when she arrived like clothe her, wash her, wake up to her three and four times a night, holding her and helping her get to sleep.

**Did you know bub was going to be a girl?**

No! I was A 199% sure that our baby was a boy, I was calling her 'mate' the entire pregnancy, dead set a boy, and she came out a girl, and it was AMAZING! Her mum knew she was a girl, probably instinct. She never bought into the whole boy thing.

Our friends and families were very generous when she arrived too. I loved buying the pram! It's my favourite purchase, it's our third car, bells and whistles!

**How would you describe her?**

Andrew quickly said 'she is cheeky and sassy!' she gets that from mum, she's very playful, super alert. She's just beautiful, she gets that from her mum too. But she gets stubbornness from both of us, I think she's a great mix.

**What do you hope for her?**

I hope the WORLD for her. Everything in life I see through the lens of a different person now. Not so much what can I experience but instead what can my daughter and family do and experience together.

**Have your views changed in any way?**

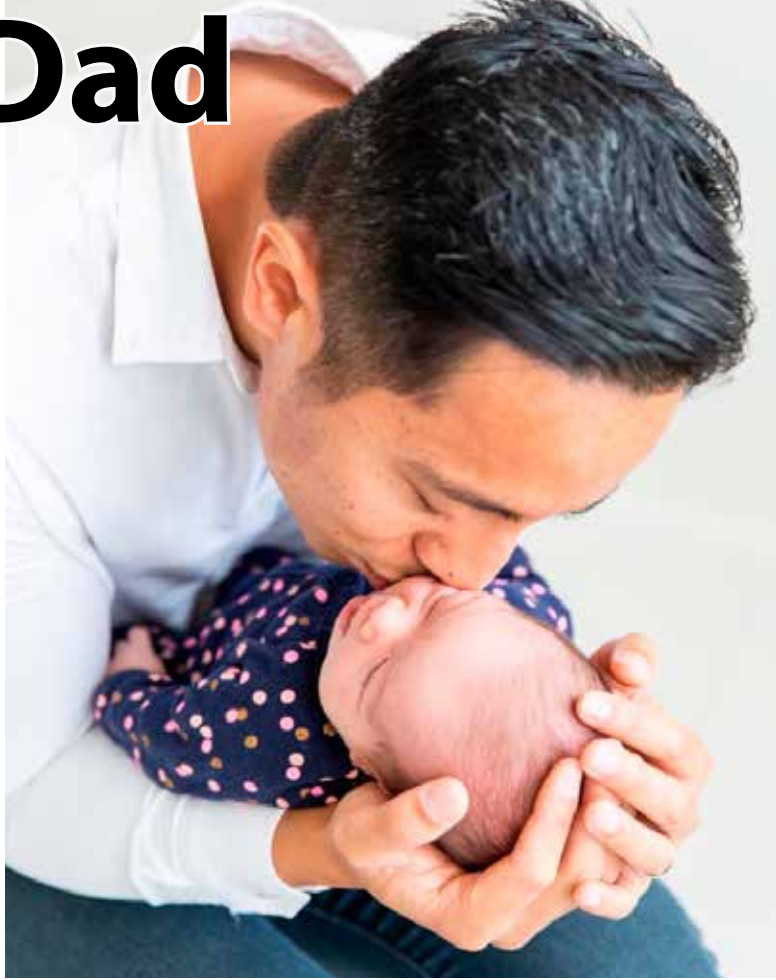
I would hate to admit that it, it was very me, or Bernadette and I centred. But even though she's an addition to the family, it's her centred now. Like, when we're invited somewhere, and they say 'the baby can come' but the practical of what time of day is it, and where is it, can we get there? It's not always socially acceptable to say 'can we bring Adelaide?' which can be tricky sometimes because I always want to be with them! Getting to mass on Sunday is a battle, we've either got to be ready before 8am (for 10am mass) or we get there late. That's been a hard transition for us, getting ready to go places. I had to resign myself to the fact that I must be up before them both, shower and get dressed. It doesn't matter if I'm in my work clothes three hours before going, it's got to happen then, otherwise it just doesn't happen. That's been a big change, a practical change.

**What about your lifestyle, I know you like to keep fit, and go to the gym etc.?**

I gave it up totally, I just didn't even think twice. Bernadette has been great in that regard, she's really encouraged me to keep going. Bernadette explained that she saw this as something important saying 'Dad's sometimes get pressured to give up certain things. It's not selfish at all. For me I see it as him taking care of himself, so that he can continue to love and take care of us'.

Andrew continued, I've found 9 to 10pm is really a good time, put them both to bed and then go.

We still play sport on the weekends, Bernadette is still coaching and managing for the Holbrook Netball Club, and because we play for the same club we travel together. Playing footy, I didn't want to get hurt before, now I really don't want to get hurt. It's really strengthened relationships at the club as well. We're sort of the younger couple,



and everyone has been really supportive.

**What advice would you have for new dads?**

You can't look after your family if you don't look after yourself. You need to sleep as well.

Don't be afraid to put your family first, do that, that's where happiness is.

Enjoy cuddles, because they don't last long, already we're talking 'awwwwww one day less'. Now she wants to snuggle, I can see it already, 9yr old Adelaide is like 'Get away from me dad, not now!' So enjoy the cuddles.

**What about advice for young men in general, knowing what you know now as a husband and father?**

Hmm... Just be prepared to sacrifice pretty much everything \*laughing\*, BUT then get ready for the return of so much more than you could ever imagine. A gift gratefully received is a gift given. Be ready to sacrifice but be ready to receive all the rewards given back to you.

Don't forget to nourish your faith, pray, and stay connected to The Big Man Upstairs.

Andrew also added 'keep getting to know your wife more and love her more'. Even though bub is here and needs so much of

you both, look after your wife, be kind to her, continue to nourish that relationship.

**Anything else you'd like to add?**

It's not half as bad as people say it is. Imagine the most exciting story you've ever read and times that by 2 and that's how married life is, you just couldn't imagine it. I've never been more stretched, and more tired but never been more at peace and joyous. I didn't know I could love Bernadette anymore before Adelaide came along but I do, so much more. I didn't know I could love another person with the same amount of love until Adelaide came along, and I genuinely miss seeing my wife pregnant, she was and is so beautiful!

**And because we know people are wondering... can we expect more Flores' babies?**

Both Andrew and Bernadette were very quick to answer 'It's all in God's plan!' We didn't enter into marriage with the expectation of 'we want x amount of kids', we'll gratefully receive any gifts in the way of children as God sees fit. We just want to love Adelaide as best as we can, and if God sends another one then it will be in His time.



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*Practice strength in vulnerability*



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3 practical and realistic ways in which you can grow in this virtue  
*as well as*  
3 obstacles you can foresee to growing in this virtue

**EVALUATE:**  
Check your progress every night and see how you went and where you can improve.  
  
**SHARE:**  
Your progress with an accountability partner or with us on our Facebook page - we're doing this challenge too!



# Cardinal Bo thanks Australia, appeals for support, understanding for Myanmar



Myanmar's first Cardinal, Charles Maung Bo S.D.B., used a recent Australian visit to promote support for education and peace in Myanmar, and to urge understanding about his country's delicate situation.

The Archbishop of Yangon spent just over a week touring Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth as a guest of Catholic Mission, whose Church Appeal is supporting children's education programs in Myanmar. His words were heard across the country and even by overseas audiences.

Speaking in Masses, community events and private functions during his visit, Cardinal Bo touched on conflict and political turmoil in Myanmar, which has received extensive media coverage over the past two years, but focused on the Church's work to heal and build the nation.

'We have opened schools in remote areas. We have built churches where there was none. We have educated our poor seminarians and sent them back to remote areas,' the Cardinal said during a Solemn Mass at Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral, which was webcast to a worldwide audience.

He took the opportunity to thank Australians for their generous commitment to supporting vulnerable people in Myanmar. 'Australian people, through Catholic Mission, have stood shoulder to shoulder in our struggle to bring dignity to our poor youth,' he said. 'You have shared the bread of compassion.'

Between engagements in the three capital cities, Cardinal Bo also spoke to local and national media, eager to temper what he said were unrealistic expectations of high profile State Counsellor and Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

'Her power is very limited and she plays a delicate role but at this moment I believe that she is the only person who is capable of leading the country to democracy,' he told *The*

*Catholic Weekly.*

Cardinal Bo urged Australians to continue their support of education in Myanmar through Catholic Mission, linking it directly to the prospect of peace. 'With the cooperation of people in Australia we would like to work harder, especially in the field of education,' he said. 'With courage and resilience, we must carry on in the future.'

(Press Release dated 3 July 2018 from Catholic Mission National Office)

**John Goonan, Wagga Diocesan Director of Catholic Mission, is thrilled with the support the Myanmar appeal has received in the various parishes which have already held their appeal.**

"The generosity of people in our Diocese continues to amaze me. Most parishes where appeals have been held have exceeded previous years donations. We are a very generous Diocese, not just to Catholic Mission and Caritas which mainly support overseas projects in need, but also local calls on our generosity from Vinnies and other local organisations. I believe we are as a Diocese a generous people who realise we have a moral obligation to assist those who are suffering from poverty and are prepared to do something about it.

**For more information about the work of Catholic Mission, contact John Goonan at [waggawaggadirector@catholicmission.org.au](mailto:waggawaggadirector@catholicmission.org.au) or phone 0428970445 or visit [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au)**

*Above: Cardinal, Charles Maung Bo S.D.B. in Sydney, Australia.*

*Below: A number of families who are refugees from Myanmar have settled into Our Lady of Fatima parish, South Wagga. They come from the Chin and Kachin states. Chin state is where St John's School is being built and which is featured in the Catholic Mission appeal. When John Goonan conducted the appeal at South Wagga, many of the families turned up to Mass in their native dress.*



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# Trek to Reach Out

## MYANMAR 2019



## Trek to Reach Out in Myanmar follows successful Cambodia ride

**Following the success of its inaugural Ride to Reach Out adventure in November last year, Catholic Mission is trading in the bike and taking a hike in January 2019.**

Interested participants in the Trek to Reach Out, an eleven-day hiking adventure through Myanmar, are being encouraged to register now and begin their fundraising ahead of next year's challenge.

A handful of intrepid travellers have already signed up for the challenge, which will see hikers journey over 60 kilometres from Mandalay to Yangon. Along the

way, they will visit Catholic Mission projects for which they have raised crucial funds.

'Following on from the success of our Ride to Reach Out in Cambodia last year, which raised over \$70,000 for Catholic Mission projects, the Trek to Reach Out is similarly rare opportunity to discover a part of the world that has only recently opened its doors to the international community,' said 2017 participant and Catholic Mission Diocesan Director for Canberra and Goulburn, Cathy Ransom.

Another participant from

Canberra, Bernadette Bryant, took a lot from last year's Ride. 'It was a perspective-changing experience,' she says. 'My overall impression is that it is something of exceptional value, both personally and as a Catholic. It gave me a sense of overwhelming gratitude.'

Formerly known as Burma, Myanmar was famously closed off for decades as civil war and political strife persisted. Since democratic elections were held in 2011, the nation opened its doors to trade and tourism, but despite increasing numbers of visitors, much of the country's landscape

remains pristine.

Trekkers will take in the breathtaking beauty of the ancient capital city of Bagan, wander around the iconic golden Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon and experience a Mass in the city's stunning cathedral.

In addition, participants will visit Catholic Mission projects on the eleven-day adventure, which include children's education and teacher training programs.

'It is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to explore a place unlike anywhere on earth; and the topper is that, while you trek, you will be making a real difference in

others' lives,' said Mrs Ransom.

'I'd encourage anyone who is interested to get involved now and maximise the time you have to raise funds for both your trip and these worthwhile projects.'

**If you would like more information about this incredible opportunity, please visit [catholicmission.org.au/trek](http://catholicmission.org.au/trek) or call our toll-free number on 1800 257 296.**



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**continued from page 3...**

conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. For as Saint John Paul II liked to say: “If we have truly started out anew from the contemplation of Christ, we must learn to see him especially in the faces of those with whom he wished to be identified” (Novo Millennio Ineunte, 49). To see things as the Lord does, to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord’s command.[1] This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says “never again” to every form of abuse.

It is impossible to think of a conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God’s People. Indeed, whenever we have tried to replace, or silence, or ignore, or reduce the People of God to small elites, we end up creating communities, projects, theological approaches, spiritualities and structures without roots, without memory, without faces, without bodies and ultimately, without lives.[2] This

is clearly seen in a peculiar way of understanding the Church’s authority, one common in many communities where sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience have occurred. Such is the case with clericalism, an approach that “not only nullifies the character of Christians, but also tends to diminish and undervalue the baptismal grace that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of our people”.[3] Clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons, leads to an excision in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say “no” to abuse is to say an emphatic “no” to all forms of clericalism.

It is always helpful to remember that “in salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in the human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people” (Gaudete et Exsultate, 6). Consequently, the only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as

a task regarding all of us as the People of God. This awareness of being part of a people and a shared history will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within. Without the active participation of all the Church’s members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God’s People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion. In this way, we will come up with actions that can generate resources attuned to the Gospel. For “whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today’s world” (Evangelii Gaudium, 11).

It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated

by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion.

Likewise, penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people’s sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils. May fasting and prayer open our ears to the hushed pain felt by children, young people and the disabled. A fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice and impel us to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary. A fasting that shakes us up and leads us to be committed in truth and charity with all men and women of good will, and with society in general, to combatting all forms of the abuse of power, sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience.

In this way, we can show clearly our calling to be “a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire

human race” (Lumen Gentium, 1).

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it”, said Saint Paul. By an attitude of prayer and penance, we will become attuned as individuals and as a community to this exhortation, so that we may grow in the gift of compassion, in justice, prevention and reparation. Mary chose to stand at the foot of her Son’s cross. She did so unhesitatingly, standing firmly by Jesus’ side. In this way, she reveals the way she lived her entire life. When we experience the desolation caused by these ecclesial wounds, we will do well, with Mary, “to insist more upon prayer”, seeking to grow all the more in love and fidelity to the Church (SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Spiritual Exercises, 319). She, the first of the disciples, teaches all of us as disciples how we are to halt before the sufferings of the innocent, without excuses or cowardice. To look to Mary is to discover the model of a true follower of Christ.

**May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace of conversion and the interior anointing needed to express before these crimes of abuse our compunction and our resolve courageously to combat them.**

**FRANCIS**



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To learn more go to: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

SEPTEMBER 2018 TOGETHER



# Henschke Primary School’s principal, Michael Jones will be retiring

by Jess Whitty  
The Daily Advertiser

After more than 40 years of teaching, Michael Jones the current principal at Henschke Primary School will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Mr Jones said in a statement he will not be taking part in any interviews until the end of term three.

“I have received numerous requests and whilst this is humbling, I do still need to focus on the Henschke community and students at this time,” he said.

For the first time in the Catholic Diocese of Wagga, Henschke will be introducing co-principals for next year as part of a trial

to decrease the administration workload, giving more time with staff, parents and students.

Holy Trinity Primary School’s current principal Paul Jenkins and the curriculum coordinator Kym Willis, will move to Henschke in a shared principalship.

Henschke is twice the size of Holy Trinity and Mr Jenkins said he looks forward to becoming part of the culture at the new school.

“Holy Trinity has been a great school and I’m really excited to follow the legacy of Michael Jones; we have big shoes to fill,” he said.



CHANGE: Henschke Primary School principal, Michael Jones will be retiring at the end of the year after more than 40 years teaching. Picture: Les Smith

# Shared principalship to be a first for Henschke Primary School

by Jess Whitty  
The Daily Advertiser



INTRODUCING: Holy Trinity products, principal Paul Jenkins and coordinator, Kym Willis, will become co-principals 2019 at Henschke Primary School. Picture: Emma Hillier

Two Wagga teachers have “big shoes to fill” as they will become co-principals at Henschke Primary School next year.

Holy Trinity Primary School’s current principal Paul Jenkins and the curriculum coordinator Kym Willis, will move to

Henschke becoming the first in Wagga’s Catholic Diocese to appoint a shared principalship.

Henschke is twice the size of Holy Trinity and Mr Jenkins said the Diocese is trialing two principals as the role has extended.

With 25 years of teaching

under his belt and 17 years as a school principal, Mr Jenkins is excited for his new position and sharing it alongside his colleague Mrs Willis.

“This will be my third school as a principal and I’m a big believer of moving on after seven to 10 years,” he said.

“I was principal at St Michael’s Primary School in Coolamon for seven years and then 10 years at Trinity, and I’m really excited about this new position.

“Holy Trinity has been a great school and I’m really excited to follow the legacy of Michael Jones, we have big shoes to fill, but I also know we can bring something different to the school.

“This shared position will hopefully allow us to bring new and different initiatives to the school as well as supporting all the great things that are already happening,” he said.

For Mrs Willis, becoming head of the school will be a new phase in her career.

“This role is a very exciting opportunity to work with Paul at a new school and working with the Henschke community and the culture Michael Jones has created there,” she said.

“We’re hoping that we can work with Henschke as a

team, building together what is already there and building on great initiative to continue the journey to a new school.”

A spokesperson from the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga said they hope this model will support the school community to continue to meet the needs of the new educational era.

“The co-principal model responds to the modern challenges of this critical role,” the spokesperson said.

“By sharing leadership at this level the “principal” now becomes more accessible, can respond more quickly to teachers, parents and students and create time for instructional responsibilities including classroom visits and modelling best practice teaching and learning approaches.”

**After more than 40 years of teaching, Henschke’s current principal Michael Jones will be moving on at the end of the year.**

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

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# Australian nun wins another reprieve from deportation in Philippines



**A couple of months ago Together published a story regarding the plight of Sister Patricia Fox. Here is an update from the Vatican News.**

An Australian missionary nun ordered deported in mid-July by Philippine authorities is not leaving the country just yet. Sister Patricia Fox, Philippine superior of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, won a reprieve after her lawyers filed a motion for reconsideration 22 July, ucanews.com reported. ‘The deportation order cannot be enforced until it becomes final. ... With the filing of the appeal, the deportation will not be executed,’ Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said. Philippine authorities 19

July ordered the immediate deportation of Sister Fox after she was declared an ‘undesirable alien’ by immigration authorities. The bureau found Sister Fox ‘in violation of the limitations and conditions of her missionary visa’ for reportedly joining partisan political activities. The nun also has been put on the bureau’s blacklist, barring her re-entry. Immigration bureau spokeswoman Dana Krizia Sandoval told ucanews.com that the Board of Commissioners would review the nun’s appeal. ‘We froze the implementation of the order against Sister Fox pending her appeal. She can stay in the country while waiting for the final order,’

Sandoval said. Sister Fox also can apply for the extension of her missionary visa, which will expire 2 September, because ‘the order to include her on the blacklist is also suspended.’ Sister Fox’s lawyer said the immigration bureau’s decision to deport the nun was based on ‘a false and unfounded statement’ by President Rodrigo Duterte. The president has made statements accusing Sister Fox of being ‘foulmouthed’ for criticizing the government. Lawyers argued that Sister Fox had been working in the country for 27 years and has only been persecuted by Duterte’s administration. The motion appealed to the bureau



Sister Patricia Fox. Photo courtesy of Vatican News.

to be ‘objective enough and consider her arguments, not public pronouncements by the president.’ Sister Fox said she would continue to work for the poor in the Philippines as long as legal remedies can extend her stay in

the country. **‘This legal battle cannot hinder me from doing what I am doing best,’ she said. ‘I cannot be deterred in amplifying the voice of the poor while struggling with my own fight.’**

INAUGURAL

# Gala dinner

& SILENT AUCTION

**The Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges Gala Dinner, to be held on the evening of September 8 at the Magpie’s Nest Restaurant, is the first of what will be an annual fundraiser for the local independent school.**

Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges, now permanently nestled within the grounds of South Campus, is a relatively new school in Wagga Wagga, having opened its doors to students for the first time in 2007.

The independent school aims to be a faithful Catholic institution, with an emphasis on the virtue and character formation of its students in an environment which fosters academic excellence. True to their Christian roots, Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges has an emphasis on helping disadvantaged families and rely heavily on outside funding to help with projects such as the construction of sporting facilities and other infrastructure and resources.

The need for infrastructure has become more urgent as student numbers increase and the school’s fundraising committee is determined to address this need.

“At present,” explains Dr Emma Vieira, a parent and member of Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges’ fundraising committee, “is the completion of our netball/

basketball court, as well as the construction of a multipurpose hall which will enable our children to attend assemblies, play indoor sport, and hold whole-school events in a covered, safe area.”

The Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges Gala Dinner will include a silent auction where a number of unique items and experiences will be open to the highest bidder. Some of the items already accumulated for the auction include: a personalised cake voucher, a selection of wines and a cutlery set.

Donations of items or experiences for the silent auction, or sponsorship to help offset expenses would be

most gratefully received by the fundraising committee.

“We are very keen to link up with people who would like to join us in building up the infrastructure of our school,” says Dr Vieira.

The Saint Mary MacKillop Colleges Gala Dinner and silent auction will be held on Saturday September 8, from 6.30pm at the Magpies Nest restaurant.

Tickets for the black tie event are \$100 per person for a 2 course meal and live music, but numbers are strictly limited. Ticket bookings can be made by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/st-mary-mackillop-colleges-wagga-wagga-gala-dinner-silent-auction-tickets-48201556152>

**For more information, or to contact the fundraising committee to discuss donations or sponsorship, please contact Dr Vieira on 0438 537 784 or the school directly 6925 6601.**

“This promises to be a delightful evening of fun and companionship,” says Dr Vieira.

“And what’s more, all the proceeds from the night will go directly towards funding much needed school infrastructure.”

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# Help empower women globally

**Did you know that women represent the greatest proportion of people experiencing extreme poverty around the world, and are also at greater risk of violence and human rights abuses?**

Did you know that by standing together, we can change this?

Please stand with women and host a Women for the World event in 2018.

By hosting a Women for the World fundraising event, you will help vulnerable women to create more positive lives for themselves.

When you host an event, the most important thing is to have fun! So choose something you like to do, gather your friends, family or colleagues, and go for it! It's all about making a difference, your way.

After signing up to host, you'll receive a free host kit with lots of ideas to make your event a success.

Thank you for walking in solidarity with women who experience poverty and injustice.

*Sincerely,*  
**The Women for the World Team**

## Make A Difference!

Fundraise in any way you like, it's all about making a difference your way. Big or small, at home, at work or anywhere else, you can raise vital funds and awareness within your community to help women in need around the world and have lots of fun doing it!

And remember, we'll provide you with the assistance you need to make it a success!

## Stand With Women

For Martina, Caritas Australia's protection program offers more than a shelter from domestic violence, it enabled her to undertake livelihood training and start a small business to support her children.

*"I have learnt how to change my life to support myself and my children."* - Martina



## Need some ideas?



### Stay at home...

Fancy a night on the sofa with your favourite flick? Put on some food or get everyone to bring a plate. Ask for a donation equivalent to a movie ticket or a meal at your favourite restaurant.



### Lunch or go out...

Dinner, drinks, high tea - whatever takes your fancy! A lot of restaurants will give heavy discounts to fundraisers, especially for such an amazing cause. It's better to ask in person, and make sure you bring your Authority to Fundraise and information about Women for the World.



### Raffle...

So easy and effective! All you need is a book of tickets and a prize. Lots of small businesses are happy to donate prizes to local fundraisers, especially if you're a good customer of theirs. Think of the cafes, gourmet food stores, bottle shops and nail salons in your area. Don't be shy - just ask!



### Be ambitious...

Do you have what it takes to organise something big? Entertaining people is one of the most effective ways to raise money and awareness. You could try a trivia night based on your favourite chick flick, a Karaoke competition, a black tie dinner or ball. Sell tickets, run a few raffles on the day. And make sure you get plenty of helpers to assist in preparation and running of your event.



**HELP RAISE FUNDS TO EMPOWER WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD**

*Women for the World*

[www.womenfortheworld.org.au](http://www.womenfortheworld.org.au)

## What your donations can do:

- \$50** could build an energy-saving stove for a family, which uses less firewood to conserve the natural environment in Malawi.
- \$100** could provide 15 female farmers with vegetable seeds, so they can grow sustainable food in Nepal.
- \$300** can provide 30 days worth of food for a woman staying in a domestic violence shelter in Timor-Leste.
- \$570** could provide two days of training for health centre staff so they can share new knowledge about childhood nutrition with local communities in Cambodia.
- \$1400** can change the lives of 10 women who have left a domestic violence shelter by engaging them in various small business activities for one year in Timor-Leste.



**HELP EMPOWER WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD**

*Women for the World*

[www.womenfortheworld.org.au](http://www.womenfortheworld.org.au)



# Catholic Schools NSW support drought affected families and communities

**Catholic schools offices across NSW are supporting drought-affected families through a combination of fee relief, counselling and donations, Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) said recently.**

CSNSW Chief Executive Officer Dallas McNerney said Catholic schools offices in the Armidale, Bathurst, Canberra-Goulburn, Lismore, Maitland-Newcastle, Wagga Wagga and Wilcannia-Forbes dioceses have moved quickly to ease the financial strain on families by offering concessions on fees and other costs.

“Catholic school principals have always had the freedom to provide fee relief or exemptions to families who are doing it tough,” Mr McNerney said.

“Families feeling the strain because of the drought should approach their school principal to seek fee relief; all requests are always treated with absolute discretion, care and sensitivity.”

Mr McNerney said Catholic education has had a longstanding presence in regional NSW, with more than 88,000 students currently enrolled in 266 Catholic

schools outside the Sydney metropolitan area.

“Catholic social teaching and the Gospel imperative of a ‘preferential option for the poor’ means that families who support the Catholic ethos and seek a Catholic education for their child are not denied a place at one of our schools because of a family’s genuine financial hardship.

“Our Catholic Schools Office in Armidale, for example, has set aside a \$200,000 Drought School Fee Relief Fund to help schools offering fee relief to parents affected directly and indirectly by the drought and to help students with excursions, retreats and sporting activities.”

Wilcannia-Forbes Bishop, Columba Macbeth-Green, who grew up on a farm near Forbes and experienced droughts first-hand, urged families in difficult financial circumstances to approach their school principal to arrange relief in regard to their school fees.

In a letter to his principals, Bishop Columba said that economic conditions across the diocese – which covers the western half of NSW – are difficult and families are struggling.

“My intent is that no student be excluded from school due to a genuine inability on the part of parents to pay full fees as a result of this drought,” Bishop Columba said.

The Bishop of Bathurst, Michael McKenna, also urged families in difficult financial circumstances - for any reason - to speak with their school principal.

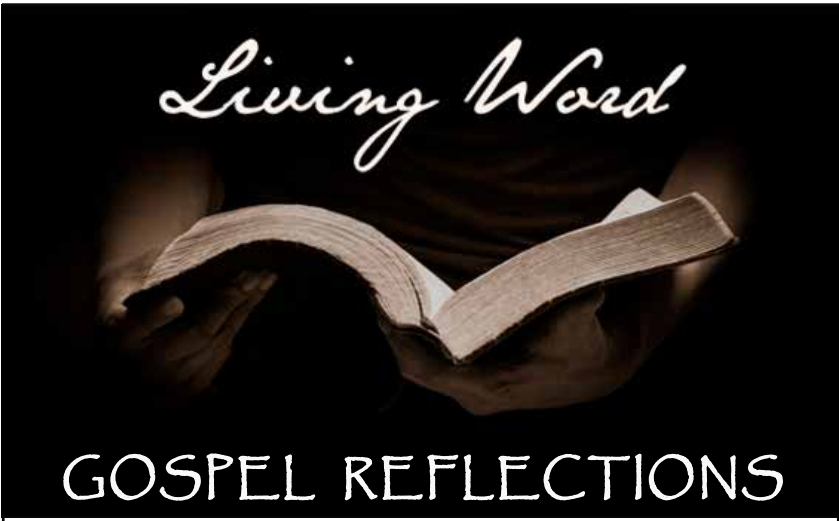
“We certainly do not wish to add to the financial burden families are currently experiencing, as money should not be a barrier to children attending Catholic schools,” he said.

In Maitland-Newcastle, CatholicCare has been providing free mental health counselling to the region’s drought-affected farmers and their families since February while its schools have been raising thousands of dollars for drought projects coordinated by the St Vincent de Paul’s Society.

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



Peter Small's dam in Coonabarabran.



### Tenderness and Love

Edith Stein was a Jewess, born in 1891, converted to Catholicism in 1922, thrown out of her teaching post in 1933 by the Nazi’s, entered a Carmelite monastery and was martyred by the Nazi’s in Auschwitz in 1942.

It is said of her that she comforted – with much “tenderness and love” – many of the young mothers who were collapsing under the strain of imminent death in the concentration camp.

I suspect our reading is chosen for that reason:

I will betroth you to myself for ever,

Betroth you with ... tenderness and love (Hosea 2).

Amen.

### Questions

Four questions are asked. Jesus asks one, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? The man asks the other three:

‘Master, what good must I do to possess eternal life?’

‘Which commandments?’

‘What more need I do?’

It is important to question Jesus about what we need to do to obtain eternal life, about which commandment we might be able to live a little better, about being more generous.

But equally important is our need to let Jesus question us. This might just make our life of prayer more fruitful.

Amen.

### Come and see for yourself

When met with Nathanael’s cynicism, Phillip’s response is inspired. He says, “Come and see for yourself.”

The world that we live in is already strongly cynical towards Jesus. They’ve made their minds up about him much like Nathanael had. Like those in his own time, people today can dismiss Jesus for any number of reasons and seem quick to ignore Him and his life-altering message.

From here, it appears their hearts are already dead set

against the Gospel and that there’s nothing that we can do.

So, how can we bridge the divide?

While its vitally important, as the Second Letter of Peter insists, to have an answer ready for every question thrown against us, often the most effective response is to tell sceptics and religious questioners to ‘come and see for themselves.’

The Gospel is open and offered to all and we, like Phillip, must invite people to encounter the living Son of God. It’s Jesus that will open hearts to him, but we must be bold enough to tell those we know that “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, the one about whom the prophets wrote: he is Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth.”

We need to ask ourselves, as people who have found following Christ to be like finding a treasure of inestimable worth, how often do we invite our friends to Mass? How often do we talk about Christ in front of others? How often do we invite people to a place where they can hear about and actually encounter Jesus?

That’s what it means for us to evangelise, for us to be able to lead others to come and see Jesus for themselves.

### Divine Aid

The bible highlights the divine nature of a woman’s love, skill and influence in her relationship with her husband.

In Genesis (2:18), Eve is described as a “divine aid” for Adam. She helps bring his humanity to fruition.

Ecclesiasticus describes the woman as beautiful, modest, charming, graceful and strong, joyful and life-giving.

She is also described as “silent.” Don’t be fooled, for the bible puts a premium on silence, since it leads to stillness. And when we are still, we come to know God (Psalm 46:10).

A “divine aid” indeed! Amen.

## A LIFE OF PRAYER

Are you called to the Benedictine life of divine praise and Eucharistic prayer for the Church?

Contact the:

### TYBURN NUNS

Rev Mother Prioress, OSB, Tyburn Priory,  
325 Garfield Rd, Riverstone, NSW 2765

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please email us at:  
together@wagga.catholic.org.au



# Catholicism 101:

## Common Catholic Prayers

By Rev. John Trigilio, Jr.  
and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti

Like most religions, Catholicism has specific prayers that believers say at certain times or on certain occasions. The Our Father is part of the Catholic Mass, for example, and the Act of Contrition is said as part of the Sacrament of Penance. The Glory Be and Hail Mary are repeated as part of the Rosary, along with the Our Father.

**Our Father:** Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in

heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Hail Mary:** Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Glory Be:** Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Act of Contrition:** O my God,

I am heartily sorry for having offended You. I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend you, My God, who are all

good and worthy of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin. Amen.



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Enquiries to Cerina Meredith  
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**ErinEarth** @ 1 Kildare St Wagga

**Open Garden Day**  
Saturday 8th September, 9.30 am - 1pm

Get your garden Summer ready and check out our patch!

10:30-10:45	Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes
10:45-11:00	Summer mulch & watering
11:10-11:30	Attacking the spring weed flush


Kids making activities all day

Café open at 9:30am BBQ from 11 am Plant sales

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Crematorium



Chapel



Refreshments Room





# Australian to lead The Catenian Association



**George Kazs, a member of Corpus Christi Parish, South Tuggeranong, ACT has become the first Australian elected to be Chairman of the Central Council of the Catenian Association.**

The Catenian Association is an international fraternity of almost ten thousand Catholic laymen, with over nine hundred members in Australia.

Speaking at the commencement of his term of office, Mr Kazs said that the challenges facing The Catenians in the 21 st century are similar to those faced by the wider Church. The most important of these are the challenges issued by Pope Francis in his first Apostolic Exhortation: *Evangelii Gaudium*.

“Discerning a Catenian response to *Evangelii Gaudium* led us to affirm that our Mission is to contribute to the realisation of Christ’s mission by improving the spiritual and personal lives of Catholic laymen through faith-based friendship. It also set us on a path of renewal and openness to a deeper engagement with the Church and society.

While our response to the Pope’s challenges may be different depending on whether it’s in Australia, Africa, Britain, Malta or India, the objectives will always be the same: to grow and develop the Church, to re-energise it, to draw people



George Kazs, Chairman

back to it and to strengthen its membership. The Catenians are called to this because we are part of the fabric of the Church.”, he said.

“Wherever we are, at the core of our response will be what the Association is about - faith based friendship. It’s about men forming such strong and enduring friendships that they get support when they need it, that they share experiences and that the spiritual and other aspects of their lives are enriched by those friendships. The challenge on our path to renewal is to discern how we share those friendships within the Church and society.”

# Appointment of new Catholic Earthcare Director

**Caritas Australia is pleased to announce that Bernard Holland has taken up the position of Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia, which operates with its own organisational identity within Caritas Australia.**

Bernard brings a lifetime of service to both Catholic education and environmental issues. In addition to his religious education and business administration qualifications, he served as a school principal for two decades and was Director of Eco-Schools, an environmental education program running in 64 countries.

He has also presented at the Earth Charter World Gathering, the World Environmental Education Congress and has been committed for many years to facilitating practical change linked to ecological renewal in Australia and overseas.

Bernard has started to engage with Australia’s Catholic community to promote awareness and action based on the principles of the Holy Father’s Laudato Si Encyclical of 2015.

His initial focus is to develop links across the Catholic Earthcare network and to learn about the work of many Catholic dioceses and agencies working in this area. He is



Bernard Holland, new Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia

reaching out to Catholic agencies or individuals who share Catholic Earthcare’s environmental focus.

**Any enquiries related to Catholic Earthcare Australia can be directed to Bernard on (02) 8306 3116 or email [CatholicEarthcare@caritas.org.au](mailto:CatholicEarthcare@caritas.org.au).**



*continued from page 6...*

estimated the basic cost of a person sleeping on the streets is over \$25,000 per year.

“Increased investment in emergency accommodation and affordable rental homes can help decrease the immediate and longer-term costs relating to health, human services and policing,” the Bishops state.

“It makes economic sense to invest more in homelessness services and affordable and social housing.

“But the real cost to society relates to the damage done to people’s human dignity and the weakening of the community. These costs are far more than financial.

“It is time for Australia to reassert the value of housing as a basic human right. A house is not merely an investment whose value is determined by the laws of supply and demand. Houses are built to become homes.

“We want to find again the ideal we once prized – that housing for all should be seen

as an uncontestable public good.

“There is a responsibility on society to display a special concern for the poor – guaranteeing the very basics of an acceptable standard of living that protects individuals and families and ensures their participation in the mainstream of community life.

“This concern for an inclusive society is inextricably linked to the common good. The exclusion of vulnerable groups is to the detriment of all.”

The funding and resources needed to address homelessness should not be regarded as simply a budget expenditure or a cost governments pay grudgingly.

“Our economy must give priority to the redistribution of resources so that people who have been disadvantaged and excluded can participate once more in society,” the Bishops state.

“It is an investment in the dignity of our neighbours and the very fabric of our community.”

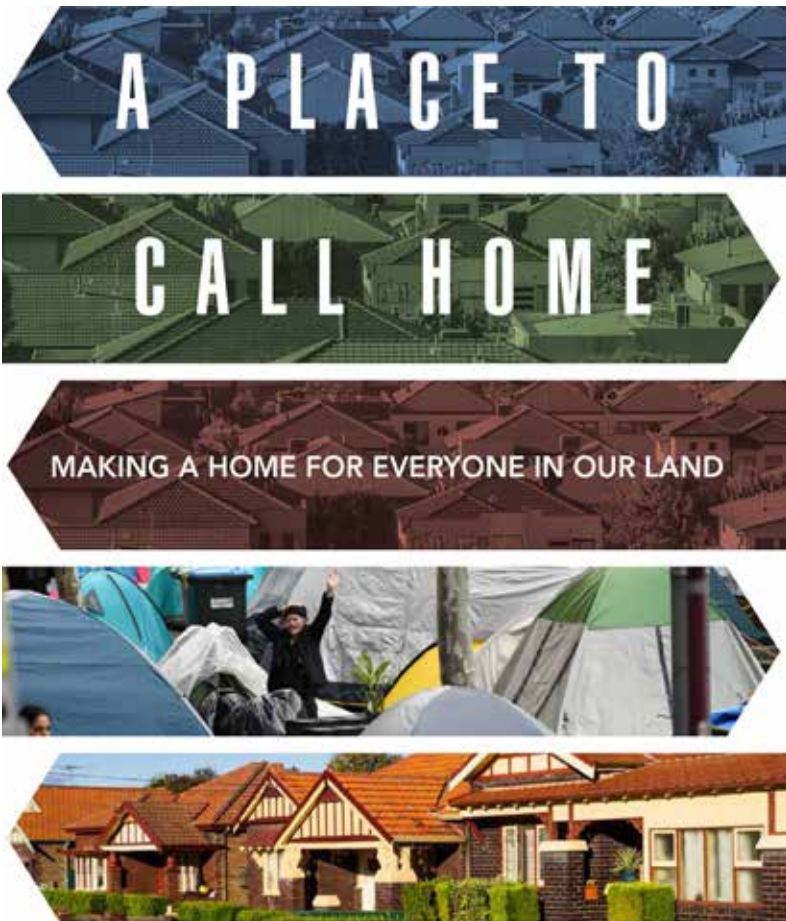
**TO ORDER:**

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on September 30. Order the 2018-19 Social Justice Statement, *A Place to Call Home: Making a home for everyone in our land*, and associated resources from the ACSJC.

The Statement will be accompanied by prayer cards, Social Justice Sunday liturgy notes, a ‘ten steps’ leaflet, and a PowerPoint presentation that can be downloaded from the ACSJC website.

Parishes, schools and groups can order printed copies (minimum of 10) from the ACSJC Secretariat. Cost and order form details are on the ACSJC website, [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au), or call (02) 8306 3499, fax (02) 8306 3498, email [admin@acsjc.org.au](mailto:admin@acsjc.org.au)

For individual copies, a free electronic version will be available before Social Justice Sunday at the ACSJC website or the ACBC website: [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au)





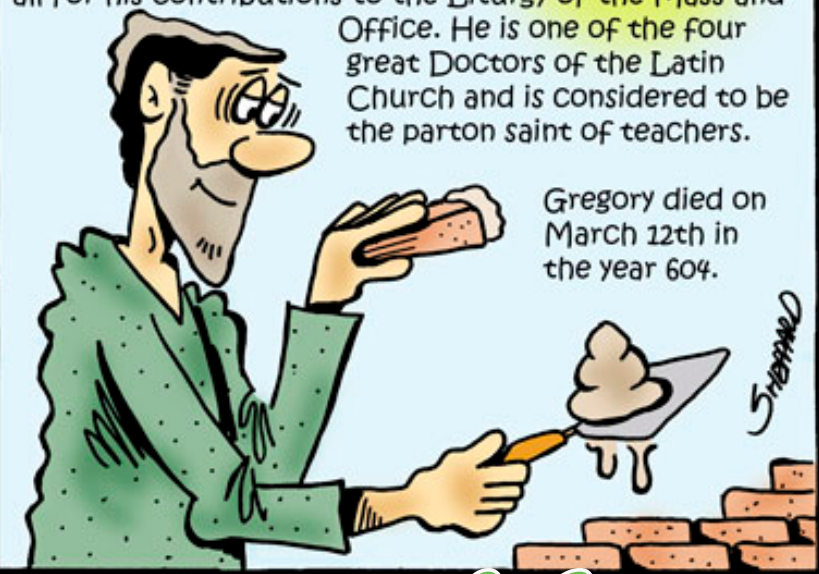
# KIDS corner

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Gregory was born in Rome around 540. At age 34 he was appointed Chief Magistrate of Rome. He built six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in his own home in Rome. He became a priest at 35.

He was unanimously elected Pope and is known above all for his contributions to the Liturgy of the Mass and Office. He is one of the four great Doctors of the Latin Church and is considered to be the patron saint of teachers.



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

Saint Gregory the Great



# Craft...

## Father's Day: Ice block stick keys and coins box

*This simple ice block stick craft is a great idea for Father's Day. Little kids will get a big sense of achievement from making Dad this box to keep his coins and keys in.*



### You'll need:

- approximately 50 coloured ice block sticks
- glue and paint



### How to make:

- Paint the sticks and allow to dry or you can buy them already coloured.
- Start by laying 11 sticks, side by side.
- Put a row of glue across the top edge and stick another single ice block stick along the top edge of these to form a cross frame. Do this along the bottom as well.
- Now layer up the sides of the box the same way: placing a stick along each edge alternately to make a pattern.
- Keep going until you have about six or seven layers up.
- Perfect for keys and coins!

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!



## SEPTEMBER SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

# Word Search



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

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

- St. **Gregory** the Great
- St. **Peter Claver**
- Most Holy Name of **Mary**
- Exaltation of the **Holy Cross**
- Our Lady of **Sorrows**
- St. **Cornelius**
- St. **Cyprian**
- St. Andrew Kim **Taegon**
- St. Paul Chong **Hasang**
- St. **Pio** of Pietrelcina
- St. **Cosmas**
- St. **Damian**
- St. **Vincent** de Paul
- St. **Michael**
- St. **Gabriel**
- St. **Raphael**
- St. **Jerome**



## 'Living Prophetically in Daily Life'

### Learning to Hear the Voice of God

Presented by ~

Anne Brereton; Tasmania, Anne Marie Gatenby; Perth

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

October 26th, 27th & 28th ~ 2018

Friday 26th, 7pm ~ 9pm.

Saturday 27th, 9:30am ~ 5:00pm Saturday Evening 7pm ~ 9pm

Sunday 28th, 9:30am ~ 3:15pm

Please bring a shared lunch and afternoon tea

Cost \$60 or Donation kindly appreciated for the weekend

CCR Annual Conference ~

RSVP:

Contact: Brigita Hore; 0412042196

E: [brigita@bigpond.com](mailto:brigita@bigpond.com)

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for Billeting: [fkernaqhan@hotmail.com](mailto:fkernaqhan@hotmail.com)



Hosted by Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal

# Living prophetically in your daily lifestyle

A Training Weekend will be held on 26th-28th October 2018 with the theme for this weekend being "How to live a Prophetic Lifestyle".

Participants will learn how to become prophetic people through deeper listening and responding to the Holy Spirit in their life. Teaching input will cover many topics including:

- How to develop learning to hear the voice of God;
- The Purpose of Prophecy;
- Discernment in Prophecy and
- How to Steward this gift of the Holy Spirit.

Presenters Ann Brereton, Chair of the CCR National Service Committee and Anne

Marie Gatenby, CCR National Co-Ordinator for Intercession have presented this workshop nationally with feedback from participants expressing a new awareness on how to activate this gift both personally and corporately.



Above: Ann Brereton, Chair of the CCR National Service Committee

Left: Anne Marie Gatenby, CCR National Co-Ordinator for Intercession



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## Legion of Mary 'Come and See' Evening

A special invitation to anyone who would like to see what a Legion Meeting is like with a friendly supper and chat afterwards.

6pm, Thursday 20 September 2018

at the Bishop's House, St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga

Contact: Caronne Vella 0413 801 616

## Rosary in the Park

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

Contact:  
Caronne Vella 0413 801 616



# Just sticks and stones?

### The focus:

**'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me'. Right. I have a problem. My mouth runs light years ahead of my brain. That means I too often say things and hurt others without thinking.**

Jesus is right. What comes out of us can make us impure. Our words build up or tear down. First, our words of ridicule can destroy others. Some people feel put down all the time. Your words of praise might make their day.

Second, our words shape how we think about people? Do we focus only on faults when we talk about some people? If so, we are likely to miss the good within those people. Doesn't God focus mostly on the good

things about us? Third, our words also shape how others think about people. We can take the opportunity to point out people's strengths when others tear them down. We also can take the opportunity to stop gossip when it comes across our path. Isn't that what we want others to do for us?

We all have ways of washing our hand of the guilt we share. We tell little white lies that leave no tracks.

We put people down and say, 'Just kidding'. We don't vote or get involved in politics because it is too messy.

Like Pilate, we wash our hands of unpleasant responsibilities, and believe we are clean. Jesus calls the Pharisees hypocrites in this week's Gospel. That

word comes from a Greek word meaning 'actors'. This week, as you talk to and about other people, make sure your words show that your Christianity is not just an act.

### The question of the week:

If a word or phrase from the Gospel grabs your heart: sit quietly for a few moments, repeating it to yourself and asking God to show you how it applies to your life. Perhaps even journal on the following question:

**Who inspires you by his or her refusal to gossip or say unkind words about others?**



## WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA 2019

**GPBS TOUR**  
Catering for small groups and individuals!

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tour Leader: Paul Skippen**  
M: 0412 850 883  
E: [info@gpbs.com.au](mailto:info@gpbs.com.au)



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga Wagga



On 30 August Year 4 assisted with a celebratory Mass for Fathers. Then on 31 August St Joseph's put on a Father's Day breakfast for all the Dads and Grandads. **We hope you all had a wonderful day!**

**WE ARE GREATER TOGETHER**

info@ww.catholic.edu.au  
02 6937 0000

**Catholic Education**  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now for 2019

St Patrick's Parish School, Albury



Congratulations to the students who won the "Tournament of the Minds" Riverina Region Social Sciences, Primary section on 26 August in Wagga. A fantastic effort and we are all very proud of you. Next Stop Sydney!!!!

Mater Dei Primary, Wagga Wagga

On August 23 Mrs Wishy Washy visited the Kindergarten children at Mater Dei Primary School in Wagga Wagga.

house Mrs

St Francis Xavier's Primary, Urana



On Tuesday 14 August the students attended an excursion to the Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. The students learnt about importance of local indigenous plants, eucalyptus trees and the plight of the Corroboree Frog. On the day, they also received an Acknowledgement of Country symbol as a follow up to the workshop David Dunn, a local Wiradjuri artist, conducted with the students earlier this year.



St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



The Wagga Wagga Diocese Primary School Music Camp has begun!





## St Joseph's Primary School, Finley

On 24 August Joey's Patch students had lots of knife skill practice as they sliced and prepared ingredients to make Falafel, Tabbouleh and an Egg and Fennel Salad.



## St Columba's Primary, Berrigan



On 31 August St Columba's Primary at Berrigan had their Book Week Parade.

## Sacred Heart Primary School, Koorringal



Such a great day at Sacred Heart's Book Week activities on 24 August. They had activities in classes in mixed groups, a 'booknic' where our parents were invited to join us in the sun for a time to relax and read on the oval, as well as a fantastic book parade.



## St Josephs's Primary School, Jerilderie



The K/1 students visited St. Michael's Catholic Primary School in Mittagong on 21 August - virtually that is. The K/1's had a Google hangout with a class from the school. K/1 are doing writing to inquire in English and had prepared an assortment of questions to inquire about their school, community, lifestyle and whether they were in a drought. The K/1's thoroughly enjoyed this new experience and look forward to having another one soon.

## All Saints Primary School, Tumbarumba



The feedback is that Band Camp Rocks!

## Xavier High School, Albury

Congratulations to Elk, a very talented group of Xavier students who have been chosen to play at this years By The Banks Music Festival in November, and have also been nominated for the Henty Field Days, Dreamfield Award.



Xavier High School's staff vs students soccer match was on 24 August. Did the staff gain the win again for 4 back to back wins? We are awaiting word...

## St Mary's Primary, Yoogali



This term St Mary's have been looking at Weather. On August 28 in Science they investigated what happens when a cloud gets heavy. They had lots of fun!!





# Teacher of the month: Brooke Dainer

**Each month, Together, will ask a different teacher from within our Diocese about their background and role as a teacher within their school.**

**Name / background / years teaching:**

Brooke Dainer is a teacher at Holy Spirit Primary School, Lavington. Holy Spirit Primary School is an Open Learning school delivering quality education from Years K-6. Stimulating a goal based and caring environment, Holy Spirit aims to support each and every child in their full potential and development as a person, and as a learner.

Brooke has been teaching here for 2 years. She currently teaches Years 5 and 6 (Stage 3).

**Where did you grow up?**

Albury, NSW. Holy Spirit Primary School was the Primary school I attended. I am very fortunate to work alongside many of the staff who taught and inspired me to become a teacher!

**Why did you become a teacher?**

I believe teaching is a precious gift given to us from God. Having a passion for quality education and holding a belief that education is where changes in the world begin, I had always wanted to be a part of this growing up. Teaching involves not only delivering quality content and pedagogy, but ensuring that our children are

fully supported in their whole development. Taking part in a child's journey as they grow up and become the next leaders in our world is very special.

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

Having received ongoing quality education through the Catholic Education Diocese of Wagga Wagga both in my Primary (Holy Spirit Primary School, Lavington) and Secondary (Xavier High School, Albury) education, I have always desired to be a part of this thriving and consistently growing Diocese. Aware of the contemporary mindset the Wagga Diocese works towards, and the opportunities they provide for their students and teachers alike, returning to my home town after my studies and being offered positions within this Diocese has certainly made me feel blessed! A member of the Holy Spirit Parish community from a young age, this has also brought me to teach in this Diocese. I enjoy working alongside the members of my School and Parish community, building and strengthening these important relationships.

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

The greatest highlights would be seeing my students achieve and smile in their every day learning! Some other

highlights include recently achieving Proficiency with NESA, receiving Permanency at my wonderful school, and having the opportunity to attend some brilliant Professional Development opportunities. Working with unique and passionate educators keeps me enthusiastic and energetic in my role, as we work together towards a constantly evolving world in education.

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

Finding balance in my early career is something that I have particularly had to work on over time. Wanting to give my best for the sake of my students and my school community, I have been prompted to become more flexible and less prescriptive in my teaching. As new policies and practices, including Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) are given raised awareness, giving appropriate time to the different demands and elements of my role has required self reflection and careful planning.

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

Too many to mention! Both my school and the Diocese have presented an abundance of opportunities giving insights into many avenues of education. I have particularly enjoyed receiving ongoing professional learning in the area of

Mathematics, supported by my Targeted Maths Teacher (TMT) Maree. Other highlights include receiving Performing Arts training with ASPA education, attending a workshop for Provisional teachers with Emily Paul, and learning about the Social and Emotional (SEL) initiatives within the Diocese. I am very excited to be attending an upcoming workshop for early career teachers in Wagga Wagga with NESA!

**What do you hope to achieve in your role as a teacher?**

Whilst still in my early career and continuing to discover my strengths and interests, I hope to achieve greater experience as a social and emotional support in my role as a teacher. Aware of the many challenges our contemporary world presents, I am intrigued and inspired by the key role teachers can have in this aspect of their students' lives. Having the opportunity to coordinate Spirit Time/Peer Support at Holy Spirit School for the first time this year, this has sparked great interest in the many different roles we have as a wellbeing support for our students. From a broader perspective, I would like to see myself continuing to seek professional development, which will continue to push and inspire me as a contemporary educator. My ultimate dream would to be in leadership, having the opportunity to guide



Brooke Dainer

Catholic Education  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

and motivate my fellow teachers to dream and achieve, both for themselves and their students!

**How would your students describe you?**

Energetic, eccentric and inquisitive. I like to encourage my students to stay on-task, positive and ask questions in everything they are learning! With these teacher traits, I hope to see my students be themselves, discovering the best way they can achieve their goals and explore their absolute potential in the learning opportunities presented to them.

# Home of Compassion Rosary Beads

**Residents of the Home of Compassion and helpers recently celebrated their 15th anniversary of making Rosary Beads.**

Rosaries have been donated to people throughout the whole of Australia. Fr Ryan took many when he promoted the message of Fatima during this Centenary year.

Rosaries made at the Home of Compassion have also reached internationally in Hong Kong, Vietnam, Philippines and Kiribati.

If anyone has beads from car seat covers or other sources they will be most appreciated so that the residents and their helpers can continue their hard work.



If anyone has beads from car seat covers or other sources they will be gratefully received.



Residents of the Home of Compassion and helpers celebrated their 15th anniversary of making Rosary Beads.





# Venezuela: Priests in the frontier zone – instruments of spiritual comfort

**“Many people arrive here weeping, with serious problems, anxious or saddened because they are leaving their country, because they have nothing to eat, or can’t get medicines, and our mission is to comfort them with the light of the Word of God and with prayer.”** explained Father Esteban Galvis, parish priest of the church of Our

our own people, who continue to be affected by the critical situation in the country.”

“We are the poor, caring for the poor - even though we can only offer them a glass of sweetened sugarcane water”, he tells us.

As the parish priest in Aguas Calientes, he is aware that “every individual and every family group has its own particular story to tell, but they all share a trust in



*Fr. Esteban Galvis is the parish priest in the town of Aguas Calientes © Aid to the Church in Need.*

**Caring for migrants at the border, and at the same time for the people living in poverty in the frontier zone itself, means not only giving material help, despite the limitations, but above all providing pastoral and spiritual support.**

Lady of Lourdes in the suburb of Aguas Calientes, in Ureña, Venezuela, on the border with Colombia.

Caring for migrants at the border, and at the same time for the people living in poverty in the frontier zone itself, means not only giving material help, despite the limitations, but above all providing pastoral and spiritual support.

“We are facing a very harsh reality, a particularly difficult situation”, Father Esteban explains. “On the one hand there are the would-be emigrants, passing through our parish centres, and on the other the poverty of the local families living here close to the border;

God. And they come to the priest and to the parishes, seeking a refuge where they can find new strength and consolation. They come to confess, and to entrust themselves into God’s hands.”

“One memorable story was that of Juan Carlos, who was travelling with his wife and son from Falcón State (in northwest Venezuela), hoping to reach another country; but by the time he got here, he had no money left to continue his journey”, Father Esteban explains.

“Here was a man weeping, together with his wife, because they didn’t know what to do next. The first thing I did was to pray with them, asking God to enlighten us; then I shared

some food with them. And then, during the day, somebody else from our community offered them a place to stay for the night. So they decided to remain in the area. During the day they travel to work in Cúcuta (Colombia). Little by little they are finding a solution, with the help of God.”

In the frontier parishes the social outreach has been strengthened especially through such spiritual care and companionship, for “in this lies our principal mission. Many people come to the church, weeping, with their problems and concerns. And our task is to be instruments of God in consoling and comforting these people”, Father Esteban explains.

As part of his pastoral activities in the parish of Our Lady of

Lourdes in Aguas Calientes, he also organises days of Eucharistic adoration and provides constant spiritual guidance for people seeking comfort and support.

“Ever since the border was closed”, he adds, “we have been running social action campaigns and sharing the little food we have, but inflation is making this work impossible for us. We continue to help, but with the very barest minimum, and with particular emphasis on the elderly and children, since we don’t have enough for everyone.”

The recent newsletter Movilidad Humana Venezolana, published in May this year by the Jesuit Refugee Service in Venezuela, reports that the principal reasons driving the Venezuelan people to cross the frontier are the insecurity, the worry about what is happening in the country, the hunger, the high levels of stress on a daily basis, the uncertainty of not knowing what is going to happen next and the lack of medicines and medical treatment. 83.6% emigrated in search of a safer place to live, and 31.2% even felt forced to flee from their home.

Recently, there was a meeting of the Asamblea de Laicos de la Frontera, a group of committed laypeople together with their priests and the local bishop of the diocese of San Cristóbal. They all gathered to renew their commitment to special and continuing pastoral service here in the border region.

Father Esteban Galvis

emphasises the fact that Christians must make a serious commitment to “prayer and fasting, since this will help us resolve the situation”. And he concludes by inviting us all to unite with them in this task: “We are a source of comfort and counsel to those who live here and to those who have migrated here and suffer. I invite all those who would like to help us to join in prayer for the people living here, because God is our only strength.”

Aid to the Church in Need recently visited the town of San Antonio de Tachira, in Colombia, in order to offer support in the present difficult situation and show solidarity with the dioceses located on the Venezuela - Colombia border. The possibility of providing future support for a planned migrant hostel, the Casa del Migrante was discussed.

Please pray for the situation in Venezuela and if you are able to make a financial donation to Aid to the Church in Need.

**For more information or to make a donation to help Aid to the Church in Need, please phone 1800 101 201 or e-mail: [info@aidtochurch.org](mailto:info@aidtochurch.org) Or write to: Aid to the Church in Need PO Box 7246 Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 Online donations can be made: [www.aidtochurch.org/together](http://www.aidtochurch.org/together)**





# Mass times across our Diocese

## Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

## Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

## Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

## Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

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

## Albury

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

## Albury - North Albury

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

## Albury - Lavington

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

## Albury - Thurgoona

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

## Berrigan

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

## Coolamon

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

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

## Corowa

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

## Culcairn

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

## Darlington Point

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

## Finley

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

## Ganmain

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

## Griffith

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

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

## Holbrook

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

## Howlong

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

## Jerilderie

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

## Junee

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

## Khancoban

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

## Leeton

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

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

## Lockhart

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

## Mulwala

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

## Narrandera

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

## Tarcutta

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

## The Rock

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

## Tocumwal

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

*continued on page 35...*



Tumbarumba

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

Urana

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

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

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



Wagga Wagga Deanery

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

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

Murray Deanery

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

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

Murrumbidgee Deanery

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

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

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

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

6th September 1936	Fr John Condon
11th September 1898	Fr Thomas Long
13th September 1900	Fr Patrick Dunne
14th September 1992	Fr Brian McEwan
16th September 1991	Fr Kevin Patrick Wright
28th September 1936	Mons Timothy O'Connell

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

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# From the Missal: September

**2nd September - Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Clinging to human traditions.** We can sometimes do something good for an evil motive. For instance, we may help others, not to relieve their difficulties but to put them in debt. Acts that flow from evil intentions are always evil even if they masquerade as good. If the seed of God is planted deep within us the intentions that arise from our hearts will be good and loving. Our motives for worshipping God and helping others will be pure.  
Deut 4:1-2, 6-8 Observe God's Law  
Ps 14:2-5 The just person  
Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27  
Submit to word, not world  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
Human traditions

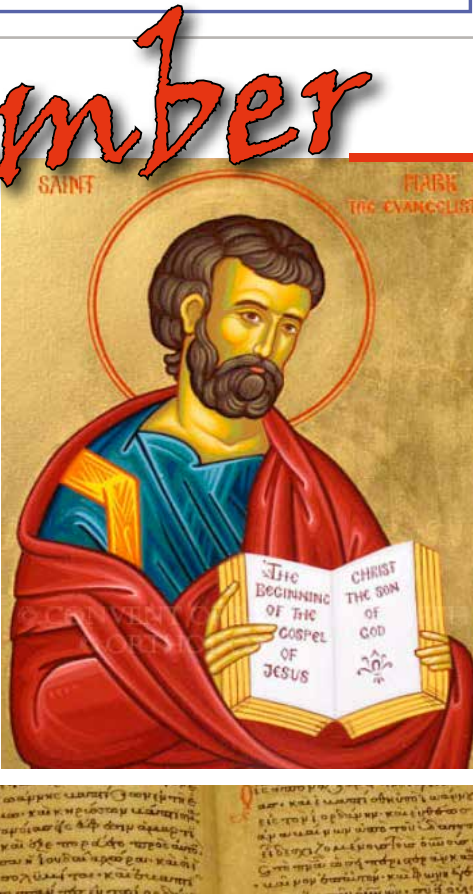
**9th September - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**He makes the deaf hear!** Imagine the great joy of someone who has been cured of a hearing disability. What a thrill it must be to hear clearly, perhaps for the first time, the sound of birds, of the ocean breaking, of music, of a friend's voice.

Many of us enjoy good hearing but we can still turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor, to the please of someone for forgiveness, even to the teachings of Jesus. What joy we too will know if we allow Jesus to touch us and heal our spiritual deafness.  
Isa 35:4-7 God is coming  
Ps 145:7-10 The Lord is faithful  
Jas 2:1-5 Two standards?  
Mk 7:31-37 Deaf hear, dumb speak

**16th September - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Who do people say I am?** In modern parlance, we could say that Jesus was seeking some feedback from his disciples about himself, especially how he was perceived, when he asked this question. If we were to ask Jesus, 'how would you describe today's Christians?', what feedback do you think he might give? How do you think a non-believer might describe the Christian community?  
Isa 50:5-9 Not put to shame  
Ps 114:1-6, 8-9 Glory to God's name  
Jas 2:14-18 Both faith and works  
Mk 8:27-35 Who do you say I am?

**23rd September - Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**The battle within.** Today's readings highlight the battle between good and evil. The virtuous person in today's First Reading, and Jesus in the Gospel, both suffer greatly at the hands of the godless. But as James notes in today's Second Reading, and as we see in Jesus' disciples, the battle between good and evil is waged within each one of us as well. While we give thanks to God for the good within us, we also acknowledge the part of ourself that is drawn to evil and humbly seek God's mercy.  
Wis 2:12, 17-20 Our way of life  
Ps 53:3-6, 8 God, our help  
Jas 3:16-4:3 Wisdom from above  
Mk 9:30-37 Servant of all

**30th September - Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Open to the Spirit's workings!** The Spirit of God is present and active in the world. Wherever we see good we know that God's Spirit is at work. The Spirit works in surprising ways. It is sometimes



through the least important member of a community that the Spirit speaks. May bigotry and prejudice never blind us to the workings of God in our Church and in our world.  
Num 11:25-29 If all were prophets  
Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14 God's law is perfect  
Jas 5:1-6 Rotting wealth  
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48  
Do not stop him





# CAPSA National week of prayer and action

**Sacred Heart Parish, Koorringal**  
**As a practical expression of Pope Francis’ message to welcome, protect, promote and integrate migrants and refugees** (recently distributed by the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office in their toolkit to promote Migrant and Refugee week), Sacred Heart Parish Koorringal took up two of the challenges of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA).

The first was to form a *Circle of Silence* after the 9am Mass on Sunday 26 August, the 104th Anniversary of World Migrant and Refugee Sunday. About 100 parishioners gathered on the lawn outside the church and stood in silence for two minutes to show their solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers. The event, organised by the Parish Pastoral Council, was to express solidarity with the asylum seekers incarcerated on Manus and Nauru in intolerable condition for making the mistake of legally seeking asylum in Australia. Parishioners were asked to particularly reflect on and pray in silence for the 114 children who are still on Nauru who are suffering severe mental and physical illnesses and who can only get help in Australia when High Court judges overrule the determinations of Minister Dutton. Parishioners were also encouraged to read up about, and

consider taking action to protest, the proposed removal of access to financial and housing supports to around 12,000 people in Australia who are seeking asylum. This situation is the result of Government changes to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS). Parishioners also contributed to a fund to set up a school in South Sudan. One of the parishioners, Mr Dominic Deng, a refugee from South Sudan, has been sending help to his village for some time now and parishioners reached deep to help his cause. Parish Council member, John Goonan said *“We are often content to just pray for refugees and asylum seekers on days like this. We were keen to give parishioners the opportunity to also do something concrete and they rallied marvellously.”* **Kildare Catholic College**  
**On Wednesday 22 August, about 100 students and staff voluntarily gathered for their Circle of Silence in the central courtyard of the College.** They gathered around the four St Brigid Crosses, to stand in solidarity with those seeking asylum. Christine Savage, Leader of Mission at Kildare College said *“It was a simple action and yet it spoke volumes. The Circle of Silence raised awareness of the issue of asylum seekers and how we value the sense of belonging and safety we feel in our homes,*



*school, community and nation. We are fortunate to welcome students who have come to Australia as asylum seekers and the Kildare Catholic Community is richer for their presence and contributions.”*

*Top: Students at the school Dominic Deng and Sacred Heart parishioners are helping.*  
*Inset: Dominic Deng, a refugee from South Sudan.*  
*Above: Students and staff from Kildare Catholic College forming a Circle of Silence.*  
*Below: Sacred Heart parishioners forming a Circle of Silence.*



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