



# TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FREE

SEPTEMBER 2019

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## Science Fun

for Kindergarten students at  
St Patrick's Primary School in Griffith

Frantz Kruger having fun with Bee Bot's in Science  
at St Patrick's Primary School in Griffith.  
See more of our schools on page 20...

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# Catholic social services team up to battle disadvantage

More than 20 Catholic social service providers from across Australia have joined with researchers from the Australian National University to commission new research into entrenched disadvantage.

**September 10th marked the commencement of research activity for the *Identifying Locational Drivers of Entrenched Disadvantage* project.**

“This project is a significant coming together across the national Catholic social services network,” said Catholic Social Services Australia CEO Ursula Stephens, who launched the project earlier today.

The aim of the research is to identify what drives and entrenches disadvantage in every suburb of Australia. Among its innovations is factoring in population change and projecting trends over the next 10 years.

“A key feature of this research is that it was co-designed by academics and those working at the coalface, meaning it can be applied in practice,” Dr Stephens said.

“This process has involved members in every state and territory, with their expertise spanning the full range of services and taking in metropolitan, regional and remote providers.

“Ultimately, these research findings will help our members better target services to address the local drivers of entrenched

disadvantage. They will also be used to complement existing research, while we hope they will inform government decision-making around place-based policy.”

Australian Catholic Bishop Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge delivered a video message supporting the project, which was played at today’s launch.

“Each day, the Church works with people living on or below the poverty line. We provide accommodation, meals and support when they have nowhere else to turn,” Archbishop Coleridge says in the video.

“Today, we welcome another contribution by our community to tackling the poverty challenge. I commend the 20 CSSA members who have chosen to become financial partners and take part in this research.”

Fr Mick Lowcock, head of North West Queensland Indigenous Catholic Social Services, one of the project partners, said it is impossible to overstate the importance of the Church’s ongoing service to those in need.



*Associate Professor Ben Phillips (ANU) Belinda Clarke (CSSA research advisory panel member) and Brenton Prosser (CSSA) at the launch (CSSA)*

“No matter how many people are in touch with those experiencing poverty on a daily basis, trying to alleviate poverty should be at the forefront of all our endeavours,” he said.

“While we are among the smaller of CSSA’s members, we are excited to join with others in the network because nothing will make a bigger impact on our nation than enabling every Australian to have the best life we can offer them.”

Michael Austin, director of CatholicCARE Wollongong and a CSSA board member, said the research initiative harnesses the collective reach of Catholic social service providers in communities throughout Australia.

“It provides an exciting opportunity for CSSA members to contribute to a project

that deepens our awareness of the drivers of entrenched disadvantage in Australia, and one that will inform the development of public policy in this critical area for Australia,” he said.

In coming weeks, the project will embark on an extensive consultation process with expert researchers, sector peak bodies and advocates for groups that experience disadvantage.

The first public report of research outcomes is due before the end of the year.

**Find out more about the project and the partner organisations on the CSSA website.**



# The Cardinal Pell judgement

The trial of Cardinal George Pell has attracted national and international attention and rocked the Australian Catholic Church.

**The focus now shifts to the High Court, with reports that Cardinal Pell’s legal team will seek leave to appeal his conviction in the High Court of Australia.**

The Victorian Court of Appeal, in a dramatic 2:1 verdict, recently upheld Cardinal Pell’s conviction on child sex offences.

The High Court action would be the one final chance for Australia’s most senior Catholic cleric to clear his name. It is expected Cardinal Pell’s legal team will make a formal application for special leave to appeal to the High Court. That special leave must be granted before the High Court can hear any appeal.

It is likely that a hearing to determine whether the High Court will accept the case will occur by the end of the year, in Melbourne.

For now, the 78-year-old Cardinal will continue to serve his sentence of six years’ imprisonment and be eligible to apply for parole after he has served three years and eight months.

While the Cardinal Pell conviction has shocked the Catholic Church, our church leaders have spoken strongly about the need to support and pray for victims of sexual abuse, and to ensure that all children are protected from any harm or distress.

**Statement excerpt from Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne**

My thoughts and prayers are with the man who brought this matter before the courts. I humbly acknowledge it has been a challenging time for him, and I stand ready to offer pastoral and spiritual help, should he seek it.

In Christian charity, I will ensure that Cardinal Pell is provided pastoral and spiritual support while he serves the remainder of his sentence, according to the teaching and example of Jesus to visit those in prison.

I also want to acknowledge with gratitude the people who have been involved in this case. For many, this has been a demanding and distressing experience.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne continues to work with survivors to offer support for their healing, recovery and well-being. This is based upon an Archdiocesan-wide commitment to build a culture of respect and safety for all, and to reach out to those who courageously bring forward their stories.

**Statement from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference**

The Victorian Court of Appeal has today announced that, in a 2-1 decision, Cardinal George Pell’s appeal against

his convictions for child sexual abuse offences has been dismissed.

The Catholic Bishops of Australia believe all Australians must be equal under the law and accept today’s judgement accordingly. Cardinal Pell’s legal team has said it will examine the judgement in order to determine a special leave application to the High Court.

The Bishops realise that this has been and remains a most difficult time for survivors of child sexual abuse and those who support them. We acknowledge the pain that those abused by clergy have experienced through the long process of the trials and appeal of Cardinal Pell. We also acknowledge that this judgement will be distressing to many people.

We remain committed to doing everything we can to bring healing to those who have suffered greatly and to ensuring that Catholic settings are the safest possible places for all people, but especially for children and vulnerable adults.



# Listening and Discernment

The Plenary Council invites people to continue to participate in the journey towards the Council sessions in 2020 and 2021. The “Listening and Discernment” phase recently opened and a guide has been developed to encourage groups to take part in communal discernment on the National Themes for Discernment. Learn more about the Christian practice of discernment and download the guide, “Let’s Listen and Discern”, at [www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

## Let’s Listen & Discern

*How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is:*



Missionary and evangelising



Inclusive, participatory and synodal



Prayerful and Eucharistic



Humble, healing and merciful




A joyful, hope-filled and servant community



Open to conversion, renewal and reform

Thank you for participating in the second phase of preparing for the Plenary Council 2020. In this phase, we are continuing to listen to what the Spirit is saying as we move from listening and dialogue, into listening and discernment.

✠ Lord,  
You once told us,  
*‘Just as you did it to one of the least of these, who are members of my family, you did it to me.’*  
May our eyes be opened to the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and imprisoned.  
May our minds be freed from the bounds of self-interest, fear and prejudice.  
May our hearts be moved to recognise and respond to the needs of your people.  
May we be open to the fruits of your Spirit, so that our thoughts, words and actions can be infused with love, peace, compassion and selflessness.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.



5 mins

## Let’s reflect

### Listening to scripture

Choose your scripture readings from the guide provided, these relate to each National Theme for Discernment. Ensure each group member has access to the scripture text during the reflection time.

- One person from the group reads the Scripture passage aloud.
- After 2 minutes of silence, a second person from the group reads the Scripture passage aloud again.

### Individual silent reflection


For at least 20 minutes, take time to reflect individually in silence, pray with the scripture passage you have heard, and reflect on the information about the National Theme for Discernment your group is focused on.

During this time of silence, consider the questions below. You may wish to journal, to draw or simply sit quietly with your thoughts.

How is God speaking to you in this scripture and all that you have read?

What words or phrases are you being drawn to and why?

How do you feel?



20 mins

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### Let’s prepare

As a group, choose one of the National Themes for Discernment your small group is going to focus on for your Listening & Discernment experience.

Ensure that all people in the group have the following resources:

- The Snapshot Report or the relevant section from the Final Report for your selected National Theme for Discernment
- The Listening and Discernment guide
- Scripture passage related to the National Theme for Discernment
- Notepad and pen / Personal journal

### The Listening & Discernment experience

Let’s pray together

Let’s reflect

Let’s share & listen

Let’s think nationally

Let’s think locally

Let’s give thanks

Let’s respond

Time/Duration:

2 – 2.5 hours.

Number of participants:

Maximum 10-12 per group.

Suggested location:

Anywhere quiet.

## Let’s gather & pray together

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and live, and we recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and honour them for their sacrifice and stewardship.

### Gathering Prayer

You may like to say together the prayer provided below, pray the Plenary Council prayer or just speak to God from your heart. See more prayer resources on the Plenary Council webpage here: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/resources/pray/>

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## Let’s share & listen

### Spiritual Conversations

This practice of Spiritual Conversations is taken from the Ignatian tradition. It is a part of the Communal discernment process and provides a way for groups of people to listen to God, by listening to one another. It is a way for us to listen to the voice of the Spirit.

After your time of individual silent reflection, regather together as a group, sitting in a circle.

### Sharing & listening, Round 1


Each person in the circle takes 2-3 minutes to share aloud with the group the fruits of your individual prayer, and say how you are feeling using the lead-in statements below.

Anyone in the group can begin, and the person on their left is the next person to share. Continue clockwise around the circle, until each person in the group has had their turn.

When others are speaking, remember to listen with an open and humble heart.

“In my prayer today...


And I feel...”



3 mins per person

### Reflect

Once everybody has shared, the whole group reflects in silence for 5 minutes. During this time, think about what you have heard the people in your group say, and ask yourself: “What am I hearing the Holy Spirit saying to us?”



5 mins



Sharing & listening, Round 2

Each person in the circle takes 2 minutes to share with the group from their reflection. What have you heard the Spirit saying in the voices of the group? Use the lead-in statements below.

This time when sharing, do not add anything new to the conversation – just your response to what you have heard already shared.

“Listening to the Holy Spirit through the voices of this group, I have heard...”  
“And it leaves me feeling...”



Reflect

Once everybody has shared, the whole group reflects in silence for 5 minutes. During this time, think about how you are feeling and about your experience of prayer and listening today.



Sharing & listening, Round 3

This third round of sharing and listening is open, less structured than the previous two rounds. The purpose of open conversation is to deepen your encounter with one another. Any person who wants to speak is invited to share. During this time, remember to listen deeply when someone else is speaking, and to respond to the conversation with an open and kind heart.

In light of all you have experienced today, share your thoughts and feelings with the group. When sharing, you might like to begin with these words:

From my prayer today and listening to the voices of the group, I feel...



When the time is right, close the conversation by saying thank you to one another for sharing and invite everyone to enjoy a short break. Remember to note the time to get back together after the break.

Break Time



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Remember, these actions need to be:

- clear
- stated as a positive
- as specific as possible
- a real action (practical, achievable and measurable)

Write down the 2 or 3 emerging actions that have been drawn from the discussions. **Your group can submit these to the Discernment and Writing Group for the theme being discerned, at the end of this session.**

Reflect

An important part of discernment is listening to the voice of God within each one of us. This means we need to take notice of how we are feeling.



Before submitting your group’s response, take some time to reflect and pray individually on the emerging actions the group has identified. Ask God for a feeling of *consolation* – a feeling of peace or fullness of your heart about your decision.

How do I feel about our proposed actions, our group decision?

Let’s think locally

Take some time now, as a group to discuss any ideas which might be acted upon locally, in your own lives, in parishes, communities or schools or in other parts of your local neighbourhood.

Think about who you can collaborate with locally. You can speak with your Parish Priest or another community faith leader such as the Principal or parent leader at school, or local youth leaders, about your proposed ideas.

This part is your call to faith in action, living out the Gospel for God’s mission.

What ideas do we have that can nourish our local faith community?



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Let’s think nationally

Reflect

The whole group reflects in silence for 5 minutes. During this time, think about the concrete, practical steps which could be taken to move forward in the thematic area you have been focused on today.



For example: If you have been discerning *participatory and synodal* ways of engaging young people, some practical suggestions might be to form a state-based peer-to-peer encounter network for young parents, or explore the development of an online faith platform to support young people’s mental health, church partnership with Beyond Blue etc. Consider the questions below and write your ideas on paper or post-it notes.

- How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is (insert: National Theme for Discernment)? Consider some examples of good practice or programs, locally, nationally or globally that you are aware of that could be explored.

Sharing & listening

Each person in the circle takes 2-3 minutes to share their ideas with the group. If you have used Post-It notes, place these in the centre of the group as you speak about them.



Anyone in the group can begin, and the person on their left is the next person to share. Continue clockwise around the circle, until each person in the group has had their turn.

When others are sharing their ideas, remember to listen with an open and humble heart. You can ask the person sharing about their idea for understanding, and be sure to resist critique.

Group discussion, towards decision

Once everyone has shared their ideas for action, your group’s task is to identify 2 or 3 emerging actions that can form the group’s submission to the theme’s Discernment and Writing Group.



Below are some questions to guide your group’s discernment:

What actions do we feel strongly called towards?  
What actions could really help us to move toward becoming a Christ-centred Church that is (insert National Theme for Discernment)?  
What is the most loving response that the Spirit is calling us to?

6

Let’s give thanks

You may like to say together the prayer provided below, or pray the Plenary Council prayer, or just speak to God from your heart

Gracious God,  
Through our experience of discernment, you invited each of us to hear the Holy Spirit in the voices of others, to challenge our own will, desires, fears and prejudices and to be open to your will.

Lord Jesus, thank you for guiding us as our beacon of light, truth and life so that we can clearly see how best to honour and serve you, our neighbours and our true selves.

We pray that our decisions today have stayed true to you and to the faith and trust that you have in us.

Through this experience, may the Holy Spirit ignite feelings of joy, and deeper faith, greater hope and trust, greater love and peace, greater courage and compassion in each of us and in your holy Church as we journey forward together. Amen ✠



Let’s respond

Your group can send the outcomes of your Communal discernment (maximum 150 words) to the **Discernment and Writing Group** who are considering the same National Theme for Discernment that you have focused on in your group. You will find the link on the Plenary Council webpage under Discernment.

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/listening-and-discernment/>

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# Ten steps towards genuine human encounter in our digital world

The title of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2019–2020 is *Making it Real: Genuine human encounter in our digital world*.

**The Statement affirms the positive possibilities for encounter and solidarity offered by new digital media, while warning of those elements that are harmful to the dignity of individuals and the common good.**

Pope Francis is calling us to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world'. Here are ten steps we can take towards making our online presence one that fosters genuine human encounter.

## 1. MAKE YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE ONE OF DIGNITY AND RESPECT

We must always remember that each person we communicate with on social media is a real person – made in the image and likeness of God.

- Be careful not to access or post anything that is demeaning, inappropriate or exploitative. Do not be dismissive, judgemental or aggressive in your conversation.
- Read Pope Francis' World Communications Day messages, which show us how the online world can help foster human dignity: [http://](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications.index.html)

[w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications.index.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/communications.index.html)

- Access the book by Beth Doherty, Tweet others as you would wish to be tweeted, at the Bishops' online store: <http://www.catholic.org.au/shop/acbc-shop>

## 2. BE PRESENT TO OTHERS IN THE REAL AND VIRTUAL WORLDS

The speed and brevity of communication on social media platforms can be open to misinterpretation and a superficiality that makes others feel that they have not been truly heard or accepted. Similarly, excessive time spent on social media can deprive families and friends of your 'real' presence in their lives.

- Limit the time you spend on devices.
- Take a 'digital detox' for your health and wellbeing. Times of abstinence and reflection fit well with the Seasons of Lent and Advent.
- Establish device free times in your household, for example at meal times.



## 3. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Unfortunately, cyberbullying, trolling and the objectification of others is not an uncommon experience. We cannot stand by when another is denigrated or threatened.

- Call out bad behaviour and stand by the victim. This can require diplomacy. Be mindful that sometimes abusive behaviour is so irrational and unrelenting, the best option is to disengage.
- Discuss experiences of cyberbullying with your family, friends or school.
- Report abuse and access helpful information from the eSafety Commissioner: <http://www.esafety.gov.au/>

## 4. EVERY COMMUNITY SHOULD PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Digital technologies are increasingly necessary in our day to day lives. People of all ages need the know-how to access and navigate the online world. They need information on the operation of platforms and how personal data is used. Education is key to being aware of the great possibilities but also the pitfalls. Through greater awareness, Pope Francis says, 'we will employ technology wisely rather than letting ourselves be dominated by it.'

- Invite a social media expert with knowledge of both the opportunities and challenges of digital platforms to speak with your parish or community group.
- Share information about assistance available from local social service organisations and public libraries for dealing with the digital world.
- Ask the 'digital natives' in your parish to assist in the development of guidelines for the parish social media presence.

## 5. WE CANNOT LEAVE OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS BEHIND

Too many vulnerable Australians remain offline and without the means

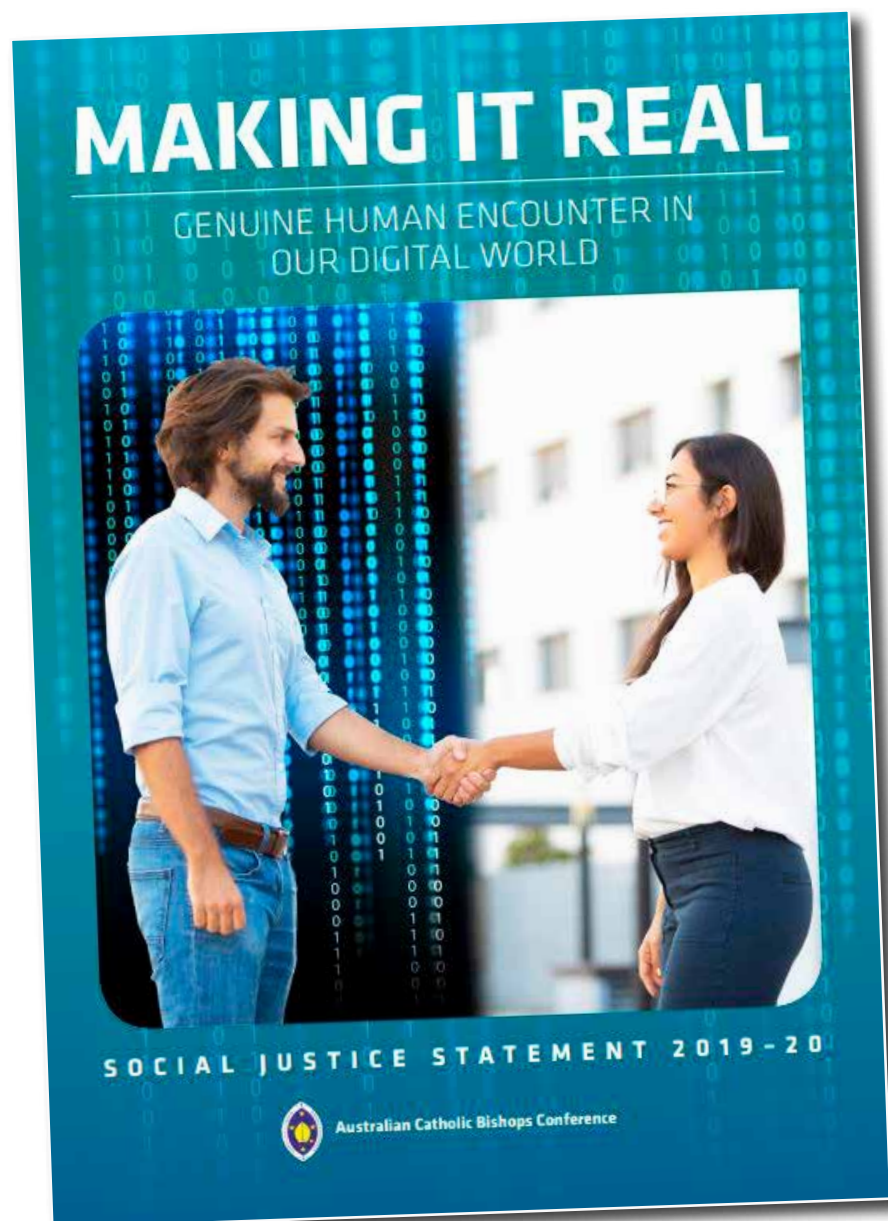
to access essential services and opportunities. They are excluded because of problems of affordability, gaps in access, or low digital literacy. There is a role for governments to guarantee internet access, technological devices and user skills as a basic human right. Interpersonal support must remain where online access is difficult or technology cannot meet complex human need.

- Access the Australian Digital Inclusion Index to find out how the digital divide impacts on vulnerable Australians: <http://digitalinclusionindex.org.au>
- Consider those in your local community who may experience difficulty accessing essential public services and support online. Raise this with your Local Member.
- Donate phone cards to services for vulnerable people.

## 6. THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IS A PLACE TO MAKE THE VIRTUAL REAL

Social media platforms are venues not just for socialising, but for raising awareness of local issues, becoming politically engaged, and harnessing the power of crowdsourcing. This engagement can be limited where it does not cross over to the physical community. Advocacy for justice can be reduced to e-petitions, and civic affairs to mere 'clicktivism'.

- Invite young people in your parish to share how they are responding to Pope Francis' invitation to 'find ways to pass from virtual contact to good and healthy communication'.
- Share examples of how local government, churches and community groups are offering a physical space where the online community is made welcome and supported face-to-face.
- Host a face-to-face event for an online social justice network.



*continued on page 7...*





# THE BISHOPS' SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2019-20

## MAKING IT REAL

GENUINE HUMAN ENCOUNTER IN OUR DIGITAL WORLD

**Celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 29 September 2019**

continued from page 6...

### 7. WE MUST PROTECT THE PERSONAL DATA OF CITIZENS

There is a growing awareness that personal data is subject to corporate surveillance and misuse. Research shows nine out of ten Australians using digital platforms like Facebook and Google want to know with whom their information is being shared. They want the platforms to be open about how they use data and to have the ability to opt out of having certain information collected.

- Join the growing call for regulation of platform data gathering which increases notification and consumer consent requirements, with external audits and penalties for breaches of privacy.
- Find out more about the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/about-us/contact-us>
- Make sure your school, parish or church organisation complies with the Australian Privacy Principles.

### 8. JOIN THE CALL FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Governments around the world need to be much more coordinated in working with tech corporations. Civil society and user organisations also need to have a role in the governance of the internet and platforms, ensuring basic standards are not undermined by the drive for profit and market domination.

Major corporations need to open their algorithms, data governance and business models to the communities in which they operate. To find out more about initiatives promoting the rights of users and the accountability of online systems, visit:

- The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission Digital Platforms Inquiry: <http://www.accc.gov.au/focus-areas/inquiries/digital-platforms-inquiry>
- The Australian Human Rights Commission Human Rights and Technology project: <http://tech.humanrights.gov.au/>
- The United Nations Internet Governance Forum: <http://www.intgovforum.org>

### 9. TRUTH AND TRUSTWORTHINESS MUST BE GUARANTEED

Honesty and trust are fundamental to the operation of our social, economic and political institutions. Half-truths, lies and slander gone viral can harm the solidarity of a people, particularly during important periods like election campaigns. Our right to truthful information and trustworthy broadcasting requires greater regulation of digital platforms, with sanctions for the spread of fake, divisive and offensive content.

- Call on leaders in the news industry and our governments to support robust and independent journalism.
- Write to your local member about the responsibility of the Federal



Government to support and promote the role of the public broadcaster.

- Counter half-truths and misinformation by providing accurate information from reputable sources.

### 10. WE ARE CALLED TO BE CITIZENS OF THE DIGITAL WORLD

As Christians, we are called to 'boldly become citizens of the digital world', with the image of the Good Samaritan as our inspiration. We are called not only to love our neighbour, but to bring the love of God to the new global neighbourhood. We all have a role to play in making this a space where hatred, divisions and falsehoods are rejected. Let's foster a neighbourhood promoting those attributes and social values that lend

themselves to genuine human encounter – love, understanding, beauty, goodness, truth and trustworthiness, joy and hope.

- Use the accompanying Prayer Card, including a prayer written by Pope Francis, for personal or family use or for schools and parishes.
- Celebrate World Communications Day on the Sunday before Pentecost.
- Follow the Office for Social Justice of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Facebook: @socialjusticeACBC Twitter: @JusticeCatholic

*This brochure is available at the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/ten-step-leaflets/](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/ten-step-leaflets/)*



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*"Remember: Hart Bros Seeds Spring Field Day is 2nd Wednesday in October"*



# Fight injustice this September and help women around the world

Women for the World is a local movement which aims to empower the world’s most marginalized women to combat injustice. Each September women and girls across the breadth of Australia gather to stand in solidarity with women fighting inequality around the world.

**In today’s world poverty and gender are inextricably linked. Women especially in developing countries face systematic discrimination in education, employment, healthcare, control of assets and economic participation.**

According to the United Nations, one in three girls or women will experience physical or sexual violence during her lifetime and the risk multiplies during a conflict or disaster.

This September, Caritas Australia is encouraging women across Australia to combat this injustice by hosting their own Women for the World event in solidarity with women experiencing poverty globally.

Women for the World events can be held at home, at work, in schools or really anywhere and can take the form of a morning tea, movie night, luncheon or a dinner party.

Funds raised through the Women for the World events will go to programs

supported by Caritas Australia, which is a part of the second largest international aid and development network in the world. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Caritas Australia assisted two million people directly through our emergency and development programs.

Long-time Caritas Australia supporter and one of the driving forces behind Women for the World, Dr Michelle Fernon believes that given the disproportionate impact that poverty has on women and girls it is vital that action is taken.

“Despite being the backbone of their families, workplaces and communities, women have access to fewer resources and are denied opportunities to realise their full potential,” Dr Fernon said.

“Yet we know that when we help a woman, her children thrive, societies thrive and the impact is felt for generations to come.”

Women for the World events, for Dr



Fernon, are about bringing together those who are passionate about justice and making a difference to those living in poverty.

“It is an exciting time for Australian women who are in a position to help others. By coming together, we can build on this national movement that leads to the defeat of poverty,” Dr Fernon said.

“One of the most important things about hosting a ‘Women for the World’ event is to have fun. It might seem hard to invite your friends to a fundraiser, but in my experience once they know where the money goes and who they are helping their generosity is overwhelming.”

#### What your donations can do

- \$50 can build an energy-saving stove for a family in Malawi that uses less firewood conserving the natural environment.

- \$100 can provide 15 female farmers with vegetable seeds in Nepal enabling them to sustainably grow food.
- \$200 can provide healthy lunches for a week at a dialysis clinic providing health care for indigenous women in Australia
- \$300 can provide 30 days of food for a woman staying in a domestic violence shelter in Timor-Leste.

#### Take action

For more information or to register to hold your own Women for the World event visit: [www.womenfortheworld.org.au](http://www.womenfortheworld.org.au) or call 1800 024 113. Following your registration, you will be sent a free host kit containing a series of tips on how to hold a successful event.



## Poverty and women: The facts



- Nearly two thirds of the world’s illiterate adults are women
- 15.6 million women and girls work in forced labour
- 1 in 3 women and girls globally experience violence

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ROSARY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019

11 AM – 2 PM

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

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

Grandparents face many challenges  
when confronted with the  
unexpected responsibility of caring  
for young children or teenagers,  
including:

- Loss of independence, and retirement plans
- Emotional and psychological issues
- Behavioral problems / lack of behavioral strategies
- Challenges with setting boundaries or establishing routines
- Social isolation
- Dealing with courts and the legal system
- Increased stress & financial hardship
- Decreased energy
- Child development issues
- Dealing with schools and advocating for children

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

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# Featured projects in September



- Burkina Faso - Support for Religious Sisters
- Benin - An evangelization centre for young people
- India - Mass stipends and retreats for 27 Jesuit priests
- Pakistan - Success Story: help for the formation of 42 trainee catechists
- Peru - Help for the formation of religious sisters
- Bolivia - A house and formation centre for a community of priests in La Paz
- Belarus - Success Story: a car for the pastoral work of a priest in Grodno

Each month Aid to the Church in Need receives hundreds of project requests from the Church in need, and each month we highlight a few of these projects to show you our benefactors how your donations assist our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for your continued support.

### Burkina Faso - Support for contemplative religious sisters

The sisters of Mary, Morning Star are a very young congregation, having been founded only in 2014 in Spain. Despite this, they have enjoyed considerable growth and already number 300 sisters. In addition to this they also have around 350 so-called "oblates" who are associated with the congregation. These are people from all walks of life, above all families, young people and priests, who strive in their

daily lives to live the spirituality of this congregation and in a spirit of unity with the sisters.

The sisters live a life of contemplative prayer, yet unlike other contemplative communities they do not live in enclosure. They describe themselves as "living in the heart of the world". Above all they cultivate a spirit of silent prayer and Eucharistic adoration and organize regular retreat days for all who are interested, as well as prayer vigils for young people. They invite the people from the surrounding area to pray together with them and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

This congregation also has a convent in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso in West Africa, where seven religious sisters live. They come from Burkina Faso, France, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and even Taiwan, and are



Existence aid for the 7 Sisters de Maria Stella Matutina/Soeurs de Marie Étoile du Matin in Ouagadougou. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.

beloved among the local people. The children in particular love coming to the sisters to pray with them. And many young women are happy to accept the invitation to study with them and deepen their faith through shared study of the Scriptures. Some of these young women are considering joining the congregation and becoming religious themselves. Other young women are learning useful professional skills such as sewing and needlework with the help of the sisters.

However, providing for their own support is a constant challenge for the community. For Burkina Faso is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Among other things they make candles, weave cloth and pursue various other handicrafts in order to help support themselves; yet despite their very modest lifestyle, this income is still not enough to enable them to make ends meet.

ACN is therefore proposing to help these seven sisters with basic support of AUD \$8000 for the coming year. Would you be willing to help us?

### Benin - An evangelization centre for young people

Whereas the north of Benin is overwhelmingly Muslim and Christians are only a small minority, in the

*continued on page 11...*



Boys' and girls' buildings for the "École Jeunesse Bonheur." Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.





Some students of the promotion of Jeunesse Bonheur celebrating Sunday together. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.



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continued from page 10...



Formation of 42 residential candidates from 6 dioceses at St. Albert's National Catechists' Training Centre, Khushpur. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.

south of the country the population consists above all of Christians and of members of traditional African pagan religions. Voodoo is widely practised, and superstition is widespread – even among many Christians. Hence there is a need for a constant deepening of the faith. As a result, religious formation is one of the highest priorities for the local Church. For this reason, in Cotonou, which is the economic and administrative – though not the official – capital of the country and also the seat of government, and which sits in the far south of the country on the Atlantic coast, a special school of evangelization was established in 2014 for young people aged between 18 and 30. This is known as the "Jeunesse Bonheur" (or "youth happiness") project and is regularly supported by ACN. It is derived from the well-known "Jeunesse Lumière" project in France, initially established by the well-known priest, Daniel Ange.

Under this project the young people involved spend a full year living their faith together, getting to know it better and discovering how to pass it on to others – and with joy.

Among their other activities, these young people go into the schools and visit the families, people in prison and the elderly, and share their faith with all who are willing to listen.

This "school of evangelization" makes the Church in Benin something of a pioneer within Africa, and ever since 2014 young people and young adults have been able to take part in its various programmes. It has borne many visible and tangible fruits – for example, out of the young people who took part in the first four years of its programme, no fewer than 12 have since entered the seminary and five a religious order. Several have gone on to establish their own Christian families, while others have found work within the Church sphere and now play an active part in its life.

However, the evangelization school was initially established on a provisional basis and in temporary

conditions. This has done nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of those involved, but in the long term the centre does need suitable and appropriate premises, not least so that it can accommodate more participants. For it is to be expected that in future young people will come from other African countries in order to take part in the programme. And so a new building is being built progressively, in stages. The first section, which is currently under construction, is the accommodation block for the young men. ACN has already promised AUD \$81,000 towards the cost of the project.

#### India - Mass stipends and retreats for 27 Jesuit priests

The state of Assam is well known for its vast tea plantations. Millions of people live and work here, a large proportion of whom belong to the various ethnic communities that have been traditionally at the very bottom of India's social structure. The Jesuits here minister pastorally to the tea plantation workers, most of whom have a strong faith and a profound desire to participate more fully in the life of the Church, receive the Sacraments and generally grow in their faith. At the same time, however, the priests are helping them to improve their concrete living conditions and above all encouraging the parents to send their children to school. Many parents are not convinced of the need for their children to receive an education, since they themselves have never had the opportunity to attend school. The Jesuit Fathers are engaged in a vital work of gentle persuasion here. And indeed many of the parents are themselves now deciding to learn to read and write, since many of them cannot even write their own names. Often they sign with a fingerprint, but at the same time they can neither read nor write what they are signing up to and as a result they are easily cheated in this way.

The Jesuit mission in this region is still relatively young, and the priests themselves are dependent on outside help. We are proposing to help them by

providing Mass offerings. The priests will then celebrate these Masses for the intentions of our benefactors, in return receiving support that will help them to survive. The offering of such Mass Intentions has been a long tradition in the Church. However, this is not a matter of "paying" for Holy Mass to be celebrated, but rather a gesture of love and gratitude on the part of the faithful, in return for which the priest will celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the benefactor's particular intentions – such as the soul of a departed loved one, for example. In many poor countries such Mass offerings are frequently the sole means of support for many priests. We are proposing to pass on these Mass offerings of our benefactors to the 27 Jesuit priests in Assam, for a total value of AUD \$12,127 – which equates to just AUD \$450 for each priest for the entire year.

At the same time, and again thanks to the support of our benefactors, we were able to send these priests a total of AUD \$2,100 to enable them to take part in a one-week spiritual retreat and thereby renew and refresh their own spiritual and intellectual lives. They send you their heartfelt thanks for this.

#### Pakistan - Success Story: help for the formation of 42 trainee catechists

The work of catechists is of immense importance for the life of the Church in Pakistan. The parishes here are often vast and with numerous outlying settlements, and consequently the catechists are an indispensable support for the priests and play a major role in passing on the Catholic faith. In many cases the life of the parishes would virtually come to a standstill without them, since it is impossible for the priests to be everywhere at once.

Not surprisingly, therefore, the national catechists' training centre in Khushpur in the diocese of Faisalabad, which has been in existence since 1965, is today the beating heart, so to speak, of the Church's pastoral outreach in Pakistan. Men from all over the country come here to train so that they can then carry out this vital ministry back in

their own home dioceses.

Those candidates who are already married and have families are provided with accommodation for the duration of their training. At the same time their wives also attend a range of courses, including needlework, good housekeeping and healthcare, together with basic Scripture knowledge. In Pakistan the worlds of men and women are strictly segregated, and consequently the catechists' wives will also have a vital role to play in ministering to the womenfolk in their own communities. Meanwhile, any children they have will at the same time attend kindergarten or school for the duration of the course.

Great emphasis is placed on practical activities and consequently the trainee catechists will also visit the local parishioners, talking and praying with them. They will also accompany the fully trained catechists in their work for a week or so, in order to acquire a feeling for their own future apostolate.

ACN has long been supporting the training of these catechists. Last year 42 such trainee catechists were able to benefit from the AUD \$13,500 you gave towards the cost of their training. To all our generous benefactors who provided this help, we pass on their grateful thanks!

#### Peru - Help for the formation of religious sisters

In many countries of Latin America there is no state help of any kind for the physically or mentally handicapped. Most families, already living in poverty, have little possibility of helping their own handicapped children in a manner appropriate to their needs. However, the congregation of the Servants of God's Plan (Siervas del Plan de Dios) have a special vocation for the care of the poorest and most needy. They have established schools for handicapped children and they also care for the elderly, sick and needy. They want every person to feel loved and accepted and for the handicapped especially to be able to discover and develop their own particular talents. And at the same time they want to help

continued on page 23...



Maintenance of 31 sisters in formation, Siervas del Plan de Dios. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.



Living Word

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS

# What fasting is for

**Fasting is obviously not wrong. Jesus himself fasted for forty days in the wilderness and elsewhere commanded his disciples to fast.**

Nevertheless, Jesus' disciples are not fasting in today's Gospel, and the Pharisees demand an explanation.

Jesus replies, "No one puts new wine into old wineskins." By 'new wine' Jesus references himself, his teaching, and the reconciliation that he brings to the whole world by his death on the cross.

We hear Paul's glorious recounting of who Jesus is. It is Jesus through whom everything was made, and everything was able to be reconciled to God.

Jesus is totally sufficient, totally powerful, and totally wonderful. He is made a way to God through his death and resurrection.

Essentially, what the Pharisees are looking for when they pray and fast is Jesus. It is in Jesus that we find the holiness, peace, and life that we desire. Fasting, when joined with prayer, is a way that we can get past our distractions and appetites and begin to turn our focus back towards this life in Christ.

However, the Pharisees are trying to put Jesus' new wine into old wineskins.

When we boil our faith down to just doing good works or just ticking all the boxes, we miss what our faith is trying to get to.

To take part in Jesus and to be a part of that body of which he is the head means that we must become a new creation. We cannot remain the same as we were before we came to faith in Christ.

How do we do this?

It is through Jesus and our faith in him that we are made new and right with God. Because of Jesus, we can be reconciled to God.

In this life, we must fast and pray that we might be united to Christ, remade as fresh skins that he can pour his Spirit into.

“ It is in focusing on Christ that we find the meaning to everything that we do as Catholics. ”



# Nagle Centre to offer support for at risk locals

Albury residents at risk of isolation and homelessness will be able to gain assistance following the opening of a new community centre named in honour of the late Justice John Nagle.

**Officially opening the Nagle Centre on 11th September, following a generous bequest left by Justice Nagle, St Vincent de Paul Society NSW State President Denis Walsh said the centre represents Vinnies NSW commitment to serving the Albury community.**

"The Nagle Centre will have a profound impact for the region in providing assistance to those facing hardship and giving people the capacity to transform their lives," Mr Walsh said.

"The centre will complement the neighbouring Olive Street complex opened earlier this year providing social and affordable housing for people on low incomes in Albury.

"Justice Nagle was a remarkable man. He may no longer be with us, but his legacy of compassion for the people and community lives on through this centre," Mr Walsh said.

Today's official opening was undertaken by Winsome Duffy, the daughter of Justice John Nagle, along with Mr Walsh, followed by a blessing by Albury Parish priest, Father Joel Wallace.

*The late Judge John Nagle, pictured in 1997.*



St Vincent de Paul's Brian Murnane, Dennis Walsh, Beverly Kerr and Jack de Groot outside The Nagle Centre. Picture: Tara Trehwella

"IT'S THE DUTY OF EVERYONE TO DEFEND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND PROMOTE IT FOR ALL PEOPLE."

POPE FRANCIS



Friday, 27 September 2019  
7:15 to 9:15pm  
St Michael's Parish Centre

**Topic:**  
**Why is freedom of religion important?**

Speaker: Mrs Madeleine Suttie  
Spiritual Director: Fr Gabriel Murray





# St Vincent de Paul Society *good works*

## Vinnies Community Sleepout

On August 30 Wagga Wagga held their Vinnies Community Sleepout at Charles Sturt University. \$33,000 has been raised to date and fund raising will remain open until the end of the month.

### There was a great turn out with 67 amazing participants taking part in the Vinnies Community Sleepout.

The event was held at Charles Sturt University with a soup kitchen provided by My Chef, bread rolls provided by Hotbake, breakfast provided by South Wagga APEX group and coffee provided by Infuso. Thank you for your wonderful support.

Those who attended the event had an opportunity to learn about what services Vinnies provides through the Edel Quinn Shelter, Micah Hub, Conferences and the Vinnies shop.

Participants had the opportunity to listen to experiences from a resident of Edel Quinn who talked about what it was like living rough in Wagga Wagga and how Vinnies has assisted her through Edel Quinn and Micah Hub.

Participants then took part in an activity called Choice Stations where participants gained a greater understanding of what life can be like for individuals who are faced with difficult situations and the lack of choice that they are often faced with. Many participants felt frustrated by the lack of choice and even when they tried to make a decision to get out of a difficult situation they ended up in a worse predicament.

There was a discussion of what the money raised will go towards such as a new youth initiative which focuses on preventing youth homelessness by connecting young people.

Participants bunked down for the night on a piece of cardboard and a sleeping bag – temperatures reached a very cold -1 degrees. Some participants snored the night away whilst others struggled to get any sleep at all.

In the morning participants reflected on the broken sleep that they had, that they were often uncomfortable and they were conscious of their security even though they knew that people were there for the same reason as they were. Everyone commented that they were grateful that they didn't have to do it another night and couldn't imagine what it would be like having to do that every night and try to function like a 'normal' member of the community throughout the day.





# 90 A story to celebrate years of St Vincent de Paul in Corowa

The feast day of St Vincent de Paul falls on Friday 27th September, in the same week as the 90th anniversary of "Vinnies" in Corowa. The current Vinnies volunteers, members and St Mary's parish will celebrate this 90th anniversary and the St Vincent de Paul feast day with Masses on the weekend of 28th/29th September.

## The Corowa branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society, known throughout Australia as Vinnies, began 90 years ago on the 22nd September 1929.

It was formed following prompting from Father Bonnar, the St. Mary's Star of the Sea Parish Priest. The newly formed group, with 29 members, began collecting locally donated clothing for redistribution to people seeking assistance. The items were gathered by one or more of the twelve nominated car owners listed for duty, on a weekly roster that was posted on the back door of St. Mary's Church. Excess clothing, shoes and household items were transported by conference members to the Albury Vinnies store.

Members were involved in fund-raising activities such as sales of firewood, papers and rags, which in the following decades helped to expand the "Poor Box" takings. In 1971, with continued local support, a temporary shop opened each Friday and Saturday at 160 Sanger Street next to "Hopkins Café", corner of Mary Street. Later that year, in November, two rooms were offered for use at the Globe Hotel, in Sanger Street. Assistance to people in need continued either by conference members home visits, requests made by clients at the store or to members at other local business outlets.

Fortune smiled on the Vinnies voluntary team in two ways in 1978 - a shop at 181 Sanger Street, considered a good permanent location came onto the market, and was able to be purchased following a generous bequest. But there was a lot of internal work required to transform it into a suitable Vinnies Centre. The original building had housed a tyre service centre and later a pet shop. Major alterations included racks, shelves, a counter, a fitting room, Conference Office and staff room were undertaken. Most of this work was achieved through voluntary labour, supplemented by the local carpentry, plumbing and electrical tradespeople.

When the carryover items from the Globe Hotel rooms were relocated, they appeared very sparse inside the refurbished premises.

Local community support kept the collection bins filling, and these were emptied across a sorting table each day, with Staff gradually learning the retail business. Items in excess of store needs were physically pressed into wool bales and dispatched to Wagga. It would be twenty years before a more efficient system was put into place. Conference members supplied their own ute or car with the "Vinnies" trailer attached to pick up donated items and distribute sold items throughout the district in the area bounded by Mulwala, Oaklands and Balldale.

With an expanding business the first "Lady Volunteers" Centre Committee was formed in 1982, with a President and five members. The Centre staffed by twelve lady volunteers was now able to open four and a half days a week. There was no cash register and the figures and finances were toted up from a notebook. The Conference Treasurer attended each Friday afternoon to bank the takings, usually as little as \$250 a week.

By 1995 the volunteer staff had risen to 26 and the Centre doors were open five days a week. A simple method of aiding people in need was employed, with food vouchers dispensed from the shop counter as requested. The voucher book and takings were kept in a biscuit tin under the counter. The internal clothing bin was relocated outside in 1996. The veranda across the Sanger Street front was erected in 1997, and a cash register arrived in 1999 as by this time takings had increased to about \$800 per week.

By 2005 volunteer statistics registered 37 female and 9 male members in the combined Centre and Conference facility. A computerised cash register followed in 2006.

In 2014 the Vinnies Store relocated to 148 Sanger Street, the former Alf Parkin Auto Sales and Service Centre. The modern facilities offer better access to the shop, with an entrance ramp and a large car park at the rear. The store is also enhanced with bigger and brighter display spaces, a long awaited Eftpos connection and an upgraded till. The modern telecommunication system now provides links to other Society, government and business services which greatly assists in the operation of the shop as well as helps the conference in the distribution of welfare assistance.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has played an important role in the Corowa District over the last ninety years and continues to do so today as even more Australians are finding themselves in need. The members and volunteers (51) continue to provide clothing and

household goods, food, travel and utility vouchers, Christmas hampers and offer practical support, friendship and referral services to people who are homeless, or living in untenable accommodation. Members regularly visit the elderly in our Corowa Aged Care Centres.

The SVDP Society has more than 40,000 members and volunteers across Australia. It operates in 149 countries with more than 950,000 members internationally.

**Corowa's Centre is reliant on the generosity of our local community and many Church, service and other groups. With this support and our wonderful volunteers, we will continue this valuable work into the future.**



## St Vincent de Paul Society - good works

*This logo represents the hand of Christ that blesses the cup, the hand of love that offers the cup, and the hand of suffering that receives the cup.*





# Spirituality Day for Women 2019

A Spirituality Day for Women, co-sponsored by CACW (Council for Australian Catholic Women) and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, was held at Kildare Catholic College in Wagga on Saturday 31 August.

**This was the seventh event of this type held in the Diocese since 2003 and was highly successful.**

Andrea Dean, the Director of the National Office for the Participation of Women, editor of *Future Matters*, and executive officer for the National Council for Australian Catholic Women, attended and spoke briefly about her work, noting the longevity of the CACW in the Wagga Diocese and the successful programs held here.

The day fell on the eve of the Season of Creation, a month long international and ecumenical time of prayer where "our different liturgies celebrate the beauty and pain of our world, our connectedness to the natural world and the on-going struggle for social justice". *Pastoral Statement of the CBCP Permanent Council 2019, P672*

The day opened with a reflective *Welcome to Country* from Aunt Mary Atkinson. Aunt Mary is a Wiradjuri elder and Aboriginal Community and Schools Officer for the Catholic Schools of the Wagga Wagga Diocese. Aunt Mary is a traditional weaver and conducted a workshop on weaving at the last Women's Spirituality Day in 2017. A number of her beautiful weavings were on display.

Based on the theme *The Spirit Gives Life* (John 6.63), a windmill was used to represent the Spirit breathing life and hope across our land.

The presenters, Sally Neaves, Eco-Education Coordinator at Rahamim Ecology Centre, an environmental education spirituality and advocacy

ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, and Margie Abbott rsm from *Igniting Sparks* ministry with experience in spirituality, theology and counselling, led us through the 13 billion years of creation, reflecting on the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, and mystics and scholars, including Hildegard of Bingen, Thomas Aquinas and Elizabeth Johnson, who all write of the interconnectedness of nature and ourselves as a single, sacred community - the most perfect revelation of God.

Sally introduced Pope Francis's 8th Work of Mercy - *Care for Our Common Home*, as a Spiritual Work which *allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us* (Laudato Si', 85); and a *Corporal Work which requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness - action that seeks to build a better world* (Laudato Si', 230-231).

There were opportunities to learn more about the science and theology of creation and evolution, about the state of our current environment, to grieve over the plundering of our natural world, to be reconciled and to find hope in the future - and to share our thoughts and ideas.

We are to ponder Pope Francis's question, *What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are growing up?* What can we do and change at individual and community levels to understand, respect and coexist peacefully with nature?

We were reminded of the Great Spirit of God being with us each day. We took with us the message of Pope Francis: *Let*



Aunt Mary Atkinson and Mary Crimmins, first president of CACW Wagga Wagga

*us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of hope.*

Over 120 women from across the Diocese attended. Some comments from the participants included: *the day was prayerful, informative, relevant; it was powerful and moving; stimulating and inspiring; challenging; gives hope that we can do something; I enjoyed being with like-minded women, listening and sharing; spiritually enriching; more please!*

The CACW co-ordinating team were very pleased with the event, especially the quality of the presenters and the many women who travelled to support the event. It was well worth the 12 months planning and organisation.

We are very grateful to Fr Kevin O'Reilly and to Kildare Catholic College for their support and assistance.

**If you would like to know more about CACW in the Wagga Diocese, or would like to join our team, please contact us on [cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com](mailto:cacw.waggawagga@gmail.com)**



Left: Some of the 125 participants enjoying the day.



Right: Presenters, Margie Abbott and Sally Neaves

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# A choice no mother should have to make

A women's advocate who is leading the fight against the NSW abortion laws says there are two victims of every abortion – the unborn children and their mothers.

by Felicity de Fombelle

**Barrister Rachael Wong has written newspaper articles, made submissions to the inquiry into the controversial Bill, lobbied MPs and recently addressed a 10,000 strong rally outside the NSW Parliament, which she described as “a phenomenal moment in our state’s history.”**

An Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Law at Notre Dame University, Rachael is also the Managing Director of independent think tank Women’s Forum Australia.

“I am appalled, angry and heartbroken at what has taken place in our Parliament over the past few weeks,” Rachael told the pro-life crowd.

She went on: “I am appalled at the utter abuse of process surrounding this bill. The manner in which it has been rammed through Parliament has clearly been aimed at supressing, rather than promoting, democratic debate and discussion on a fundamentally important issue. Conflicting views aside, this is something that should deeply disturb everyone in this state.

“I am angry that the devastating impact of abortion on women and the real needs of women facing an unplanned pregnancy continue to be ignored. That our politicians disgracefully voted down crucial protections for women and girls vulnerable to coercion, sex-selective

“ Anyone with a commitment to truth, justice, and love for neighbour, as well as a belief in the inherent dignity of every human being, has a responsibility to speak out against this horrific bill.”

abortions and sexual abuse. And that the so-called “right to abortion” is being aggressively pursued at all costs – even at the cost of women’s and girls’ health and lives.

“And I am heartbroken at the callousness of a law that would effectively allow abortion on demand until birth. That would leave those babies who by some miracle survive an abortion to die without medical treatment. That further disregards the humanity and dignity of the most vulnerable members of our human family. And that tragically continues to pit women against their children.”

The bill mimics abortion law changes which have already passed in Victoria and Queensland by effectively allowing abortion at any stage of pregnancy, and for any reason, including the child’s gender.



Rachael Wong addresses a 10,000 strong crowd at the Rally for Life in Sydney

The NSW proposal:

- Makes abortion legal up to five months on request (at which point a baby can survive outside the womb);
- Allows abortion beyond five months with no upper gestational limit and very minimal restrictions. Two doctors must agree that the abortion should occur, having broad reference to the woman’s circumstances.

Rachael said the bill was a radical departure from the current law and condemned it for removing protections “for women, unborn children and health practitioners.”

“Most women seek abortions because they believe they have no other choice,” she said.

“Instead of making abortions more available, our government should address the real issues women are facing, and provide them with genuine support, especially in situations of domestic violence. We need to ensure that women feel empowered to have and raise their children, and don’t feel that abortion is

their only choice.”

While supporters describe current abortion laws as archaic, Rachael said it was archaic to tell women that the solution to their problems is to get rid of their child.

“For all their talk of ‘progress’, this is an incredibly regressive, anti-woman, inhuman law, and a grave step backwards for women and our society,” she added.

“In 2019, we must do better for women, and their children, than abortion.”

With the bill set to be debated in the NSW Upper House this month, Rachael is urging people to join her in speaking up for women and unborn children.

“Abortion is a human issue,” she said.

“Anyone who genuinely cares about women and their unborn children should be deeply concerned by what is happening in NSW.

“Anyone with a commitment to truth, justice, and love for neighbour, as well as a belief in the inherent dignity of every human being, has a responsibility to speak out against this horrific bill.”

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# Based on a true story: Unplanned

Unplanned is the most important movie you'll ever see on the most controversial issue of our time. No matter which side of the fence you're on, no one will leave this film unmoved.



**Unplanned is the inspiring true story of one woman's journey of transformation.**

All Abby Johnson ever wanted to do was help women. As one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation, she was involved in upwards of 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women about their reproductive choices. Her passion surrounding a woman's right to choose even led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in.

Until the day she saw something that changed everything.

Please note this film is for mature audiences.



<p><b>VILLAGE CINEMAS</b> <b>ALBURY</b> TUESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 7:00 PM 456 Dean St Albury NSW 2640 \$21.00 AUD Admission + \$2.00 booking fee = \$23.00</p>	<p><b>FORUM 6 CINEMA</b> <b>WAGGA WAGGA</b> WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 6:30 PM 77 Trail St Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 \$20.00 AUD Admission + \$2.00 booking fee = \$22.00</p>
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**Tickets available from: <https://fan-force.com/screenings/>**

# India: World Mission Appeal

Do something extraordinary for God and please help continue the work of Catholic Mission around the world.

**Nestled high in India's mountainous north-east is the state of Nagaland, where, due to its remoteness, many people do not have access to electricity or running water, let alone education and varied career opportunities.**

The communities in these areas often rely on subsistence farming and local trade, as they have for many generations. This means that children like fifteen-year-old Vikhonuo are not always given the opportunity to follow their dreams.

Vikhonuo is fortunate to live at the Eden Gardens Children's Home, a place where 250 children from remote and disadvantaged backgrounds are given access to education, as well as a safe home that fulfils their physical and spiritual needs.

"We are just trying to give direction to their



dreams ... that is the main aim," says Father Rajesh Lobo, who runs the home with Father Raymond De Souza.

In addition to the ongoing struggle of covering running costs, the home is currently faced with water shortages.

Distressingly, the water tanks at the home do not hold enough water to last through the dry season, and water must be rationed due to unpredictable weather. This can put a strain on the staff and children at the home, as necessities such as washing are sometimes cut, and purchasing and transporting water is very costly.

The Eden Gardens Children's Home strives to provide the children with their basic needs, and with support from generous donors like you, can continue doing so for years to come.

**Please help missionaries like Father Raymond and Father Rajesh as they provide the physical and spiritual water for children like Vikhonuo in India and around the world!**



**Visit: [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au)**

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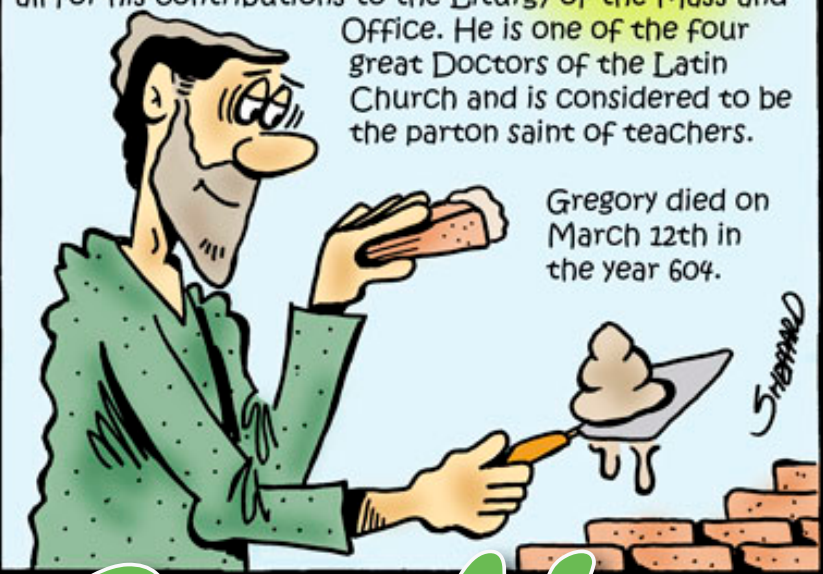


# KIDS corner

## 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 moanasteries 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 parton saint of teachers.



## Craft...

### Cardboard and Wool Cross Craft



#### You'll need:

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Wool
- Glue
- Permanent Markers
- Paint Marker Pens or Acrylic Paint
- Decorative items such as buttons, beads, flowers, etc



#### How to make:

- Cut two cardboard strips 2cm by 15cm long and two 2cm by 11cm long.
- Glue the strips together to form a frame.
- Cut wool into 3.5 metres and 2.5 metres pieces.
- Paint or decorate the frame with paint markers or acrylic paint.
- Wind the 3.5 metres piece of wool around the middle of the long side of the frame. Wind the 2.5 metres piece around the side to form a cross shape.
- Tie the cross shape together where the wool crosses with red wool.
- Write a Bible verse around the edge of the frame.



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**



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

A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Varroville near Campbelltown.  
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unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule to invest in your most precious asset ... your Marriage!  
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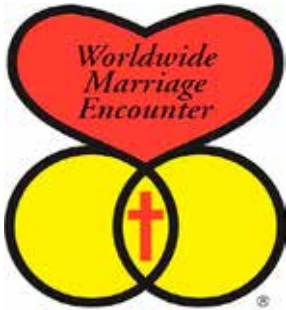


Bookings online at [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au) or contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)

**If you would like Worldwide Marriage Encounter brochures please see WWME website at [www.org.au](http://www.org.au)**

Thank you for your support of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.  
In the love of Our Lord,  
our sincere thanks,  
*Fr Mick Court,*

*Tracey and Richard Kaldausan*  
- *Unit Coordinators and Ecclesial team*  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter:  
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[www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)



## Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

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

**But classes are growing & we need more help.**

If you are able to help an hour or two a week please contact  
**Trevor Dal Broi 0407 537 994**  
or [catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au](mailto:catechist@wagga.catholic.org.au)  
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**Parishes urgently needing SRE volunteers:**

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## Marian Catholic College, Griffith



Marian Catholic College, Griffith recently raised awareness for R U OK Day.



## St Patrick's Primary, Griffith



In Kindergarten this term the children have been learning about what things are made of in Science. Their task was to build a bridge for their Bee Bot to cross using two or more different types of materials.



## St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

Adventures were had during the 'Transition to School' Program recently. The students even made some chocolate chip cookies with Miss Wren to take home and share with families. St Peter's can't wait to see you all again soon!!



## Henschke Primary, Wagga

10 Henschke students travelled to Sydney on 16th September to compete at the MacKillop Athletics competition at Sydney Athletics



Stadium. Tom, in year 3, made the final in his 100m. The Senior Boys Relay team finished 4th in their final, and the Junior Boys won gold!!! **A BIG congratulations to all the athletes.**



Catholic Education  
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now



## St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera



On 13th September, St Joseph's welcomed their 2020 Kinder students back to school. The morning started with lots of free play activities. The children enjoyed pretend play with the babies, prams and cot, building lego, exploring the magnetic boards, playing with the army men and drawing with crayons.

They listened to "The Gruffalo" written by Julia Donaldson. The Year 5 buddies came over to help the children to make a Gruffalo and then spent some time reading to the children.



## St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook



The students at St Patrick's Holbrook recently went on an excursion. They had loads of fun!



## St Anne's Primary, North Albury



Year Four enjoyed meeting and listening to the famous Australian author and illustrator Alison Lester at their Write Around the Murray session. Some students also participated in a water colour workshop presented by Alison.



## Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

Congratulations to the Year 7/8 and Year 9/10 Netball teams on winning the NSW All Schools Regional Carnival in Wagga. **Both teams now progress to the State Cup!**



## St Francis DeSales Regional College, Leeton

St Francis DeSales Regional College recently enjoyed Health and Physical Education Week. Everyone loved their free oranges!





# Catholic Cursillo Movement: A Final Farewell

I take the liberty of sharing some reflections and insights gained after 36 years in Cursillo ... as Fr Paul said to me in 1983 ... this Cursillo will change my life and it has! Profoundly!

by George Simon

**And in doing the above I say farewell to the Cursillo Movement but embrace and hold onto the Spirit I gained through this Movement.**

Many others have been involved for longer periods and others for shorter periods and their experiences, reflections and insights would add to the Cursillo story in our Diocese ... it is a rich story.

**CURSILLO Today And Future?**

On 16/2/2019 at our AGM it was resolved to place our Movement in recess until 15/12/2019 and to close the bank accounts.

These funds are now held by the Diocese in trust for the Wagga Wagga Cursillo Movement until either the Movement is reactivated and funds transferred back, or if not, reallocated by the Bishop of Wagga Wagga for an appropriate purpose..

This recognises the past financial support given by former Bishop Gerard Hanna and current Apostolic Administrator-Delegate, Fr Kevin O'Reilly.

Accordingly all books and records are now ready for archiving and currently held by Fr Paul Hart.

**WILL CURSILLO BE MISSED FROM OUR DIOCESE?**

I said a few times in the past 4 or 5 years that if the Diocese lost Cursillo the Diocese will carry on doing its work and good things will still happen and other groups and movements will make their contributions.

And I added that in my opinion it is too much of a loss!

Why? ...

Because of its balanced structure of Piety, Study and Action. Because of the community we have in Cursillo and how we shared that sense with our other communities as best we could. Because of the authenticity of this Movement grounded in our real Church and in our Sacraments - especially Eucharist

Because of the focus on living the Gospel and our faith ... not so much about converting anyone ... rather to offer a choice for Jesus and to back up that

offer with the way we live, warts and all.

Because of the friendship and camaraderie with Priests and religious through which I came to better appreciate the real importance and relevance of our Ordained and Professed brothers and sisters in Christ in our lives and us in theirs.

And, because through Cursillo I was able to join a genuine Anglo-Catholic Cursillo in 2018. My eyes were opened to the strength of Christianity and the understanding there is more that joins us than divides us.

At the outset and publicly I thank Fr Paul Hart for inviting me to a “retreat” at my request in 1983 when he was Assistant at Holy Spirit.

The “retreat” was my first Cursillo in 1983 and became an integral part of my journey since - and will remain so.

I had no idea then that I would be on many teams as a team member, Cha (twice) and once as Lay Director. Nor that I would serve as Treasurer once and as President twice.

It was through Cursillo that these opportunities came to me and indeed to so many others over our 50 years active in Wagga Wagga. I was just one of many.

**KAIROS:** additional to this was two KAIROS prison journeys with the Mannus Kairos group ... the structure

is similar to Cursillo and the objective is more direct than Cursillo - the recovery of inmates with more hope and sense of Choice and Community ... all bound in faith as each was able. It was a remarkably deep and challenging experience for me personally and humbling.

**FINALLY:** I thank all those who have helped me in my journey over the past 36 years.

Some of you have become long time friends; others helped me along the way at different times. I will not try naming you all in case I miss a name and give offense.

One name, however, is my wife, Liz, who supported me all the way. It was not always easy for her and I am blessed to have Liz share my Cursillo journey.

I now look forward to a change in our journey post Cursillo in which we retain and share old friendships where the Spirit of Cursillo remains alive.

As the final note and to paraphrase a message from St Mother Teresa ...

*We are not usually called or able to do great things. But we are required to do small things with great love.*

Reckon I’ll make that my guiding light here on in along with Desiderata. God is not far away, really!

**For the last time: De Colores and God Bless you all.**

# Families and schools working together for student success

From 16th September families and schools around Australia can access a free resource “Gearing up for parent engagement in student learning” toolkit.

**This resource created by Catholic School Parents Australia (CSPA) assists parents, staff and principals to form great relationships and learn the importance of engaging in children’s learning from the first contact with the school – both primary and secondary.**

Federal Minister for Education Hon Dan Tehan launched both the resource and the website saying “Parents should take an active role in their child’s education. These Toolkits help parents navigate some of the tricky junctures in a child’s journey though the school

years. When parents and teachers have healthy, engaged relationships, our students benefit”

Minister Tehan congratulated Catholic School Parents Australia on delivering a quality resource to support families and schools, have children ready for school and schools ready for students and their families.

At today’s launch CSPA deputy chair Ms Carmel Nash said “this important resource was essential for families and schools to help them make the transition into primary and secondary schools a great experience for children, young



people and their families”.

Ms Nash added that “CSPA are very grateful to the federal government for funding the development of the toolkit”.

The toolkit is comprised of 22 modules, four for parents and seven for school principals and staff in

both primary and secondary schools. Information in the toolkit will assist schools and families to work together for learning success for children and young people.

**The toolkit can be found at [www.parentengagementcspa.edu.au](http://www.parentengagementcspa.edu.au)**



continued from page 11...



Construction of the rectory at the San José Obrero parish and formation house for the missionary community Cristo Pastor. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.

transform the negative attitudes within society towards such handicapped people. Today the sisters work not only in Latin America but also in Asia, Africa, Europe and the United States. Their young congregation has many vocations, and many of the young sisters are qualified doctors, lawyers, teachers and nurses.

At present there are 31 new sisters undergoing training in the Peruvian capital Lima. ACN is helping towards the cost of their formation with a contribution of AUD \$26,000.

**Bolivia - A house and formation centre for a community of priests in La Paz**

Sitting at an altitude of almost 12,000 feet (3600 m) La Paz is the third largest city in Bolivia and its capital in all but name. It is also growing constantly, owing to the steady influx of people from the rural regions, and now has a population of around 1 million. This population increase is likewise resulting in a steady growth of the parishes within the city. Around 80% of the population in Bolivia are Catholics, and at the same time there are far too few priests.

The parish of Saint Joseph the Worker (San José Obrero) in La Paz now serves a population of some 50,000 souls. The

parish is very active and many young people are involved in its activities. At the same time there are 33 schools within its pastoral area. Also present within the parish is a community of the new spiritual movement Cristo Pastor (Christ the Shepherd) which has priests who live in community and whose vocation is the promotion of priestly vocations. 15 young men have joined this community and are currently undergoing formation here. They represent a veritable sign of hope for the Church in Bolivia. The problem however lies in the fact that the building currently at their disposal is far too small and cramped. So now they are planning to build a new house where the priests and the trainees/seminarians can live and which will also have sufficient space for guests. We are proposing to support this project with a contribution of AUD \$42,000. Can you help us?

**Belarus - Success Story: a car for the pastoral work of a priest in Grodno**

It was only in 2017 that a new Catholic parish was established here on the outskirts of Grodno. It is dedicated to Saint John Paul II and serves many young families and their children. For many young people are moving into

the towns today, because there is work there and they can guarantee their children a better education than in the country regions. As a result the number of the Catholic faithful in the towns is growing. Almost everything in the parish is still under construction, however. Since there is as yet no parish church and no presbytery, all the catechetical instruction is given in the houses and homes of the faithful. Holy Mass is currently being celebrated in the open, on the site where the Church will eventually be built. Father Henryk Jablonski, the parish priest is still living in a one roomed flat, 6 miles (10 km) from the site of the new parish centre. He is constantly travelling – to the building site, to the homes and dwellings where the catechetical instruction is being given, and to the hospital where he regularly visits the sick. He urgently needs a car for his work. He had previously managed to purchase a secondhand vehicle, but this was confiscated by the authorities, since the previous owner had forged the documents for it. As a result he lost not only his money but the vehicle as well. Thanks to our kind benefactors, we were able to provide AUD \$16,000 so that Father Jablonski could buy a new car for his work. He is delighted, and immensely grateful, and asks us to thank all those who have helped!

**Important note:** ACN receives 5000 project requests per year and we

cannot possibly share all the project stories and images with you. The projects below are just a small sample of the project requests Aid to the Church in Need receives. Therefore when making a donation we recommend you specify your gift to "projects most in need" that way your donation will be allocated to a project that desperately needs funding. We greatly appreciate when you specify your donation in such a way. However if you would like your donation directed to a specific project area or country, you can leave a comment in the online donation form. To avoid overfunding of individual projects, if a project has been fully funded your donation will be directed towards a similar project in that region. If you have the means and would like to "adopt a specific project" please call 1800 101 201 during business hours (AEST) and we can match you with a project that you can fully or partially fund.



The priest and his parish celebrating holy mass outside while the new church is still under construction. Copyright Aid to the Church in Need.



# John Foulcher is the 2019 ACU poetry winner

Canberra-based poet John Foulcher is the winner of the 2019 ACU Prize for Poetry, receiving \$10,000 in prize money for his entry *Revising Casuarinas*.

Mr Foulcher’s poem was selected ahead of *Single Women In Their Later* by Geoff Page also from Canberra (\$5,000 second prize) and *October Morning After Rain* by Mark Tredinnick from Bowral (\$3,000 third prize).

Mark Tredinnick won the first prize in 2016 and Geoff Page won in 2017.

A record number of entries were received for this year’s competition with almost 600 poems submitted from every state and territory across Australia. The winner was chosen from a shortlist of 53.

The judging for the competition is completed in a blind format to ensure impartiality.

The ACU Prize for Poetry was judged by Australian poet and distinguished academic and critic Professor Chris Wallace-Crabbe, one of the best-known figures in Australia’s literary community

who enjoys a wider reputation in the international world of letters.

Professor Wallace-Crabbe singled out Mr Foulcher’s poem for its richly coloured response to this year’s theme, Solace.

“As may be imagined the theme of solace reached inside our poets and far beyond or above them, at the same time,” he said. “Poetic inspiration can arrive from deep within a writer yet, at the same time, from some truly imagined site beyond the particular self.

“True poems are both dense and light, musical and natural, rich and simple. Theirs is an art of concentrating paradox... and telling final truths. All the shortlisted poems this year underwrote such artistic need for balance, colour and – above all – truth. You might say that, in the end they were like strong horses at Flemington, one of which beats several others by a short



Winner of the 2019 ACU Prize for Poetry, Canberra-based poet John Foulcher

half head.”

The Office of the Vice President, led by Father Anthony Casamento csma, sponsors the ACU Prize for Poetry with the goal of continuing the tradition of the Catholic Church as a key patron of the arts.

“Australian Catholic University is delighted to continue its support of Australian artists, writers and poets. The

record number of entries received this year coupled with the calibre of writing demonstrates that the arts, and in specific the process of artistic creation, continues to thrive in Australia,” Father Anthony said.

The poems will be published in the 2019 ACU Prize for Poetry chapbook which is available for purchase by emailing [aculiteratureprize@acu.edu.au](mailto:aculiteratureprize@acu.edu.au)

St Mary MacKillop College

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# Women's Life Centre

## POSITION/S VACANT

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

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

**The role of the manager consists of:**

- Opening and closing of the Cafe (set up of food, til, seating and coffee machine) - 8.30am-3.30pm Tuesday to Friday and Saturday 8.30-2.30pm
- Customer service
- Barista
- Food preparation, and plating up, food service and cleaning up.
- Taking orders, cash and card handling
- Organisation and direction of volunteers
- Cafe supplies - maintenance and ordering
- A desire to work within a pro-life team/apostolate - an understanding of abortion and related issues
- Merchandising of stock/sales of clothing, piety and books

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

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

**We appreciate that we are indebted to many good souls who already volunteer and thank them for the valuable contribution.**

**Please get in touch if you are interested, my mobile is 0427 254 809**



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  - The Beguines of Norwich
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  - Teresa of Avila
  - John of the Cross in Segovia
  - Hildegard of Bingen, Germany

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

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

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

**Co-ordinator: Sr Margaret Walsh pbvm**

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

**The Travel Agent we deal with is Harvest Journeys and they organise the tour.**

Harvest Journeys-11th Floor,  
Monica Mansour Operations Manager – Private Groups  
Pilgrimage: Ref No. PV8220  
toll free: 1800 819 156

133 Liverpool St. Sydney NSW 2000  
tel: +61 2 9390 5460  
[www.harvestjourneys.com](http://www.harvestjourneys.com)

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# Mass times across our Diocese

## Wagga Wagga - Cathedral

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

## Wagga Wagga - Koorungal

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

## Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

## Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

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

## Albury

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

## Albury - North Albury

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

## Albury - Lavington

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

## Albury - Thurgoona

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

## Mulwala

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

## Narrandera

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

## Tarcutta

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

## The Rock

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

## Tocumwal

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

*continued on page 27...*



Tumbarumba

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

Urana

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

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood

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

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




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

<b>6 September 1930</b>	Fr John Joseph Condon
<b>9 September 1883</b>	Fr Patrick Bermingham
<b>11 September 1898</b>	Fr Thomas Long
<b>14 September 1992</b>	Fr Brian Cleland McEwen
<b>18 September 2012</b>	Fr Joseph Conway
<b>25 September 1911</b>	Fr James P O'Reilly
<b>28 September 1936</b>	Mgr Timothy O'Connell

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

Monthly



Funny

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# Family reflections: September

**1st September - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Parents and children often enter into "negotiations" over how much allowance is to be earned at certain ages.** Typically, when a child seeks an increase in allowance, parents will attach an increase in chores and responsibilities for them to better earn the increase. Talk about what kind of allowance you received as a child and what kind of responsibilities your parents expected of you to earn your allowance.  
Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about doing good deeds for others and expecting nothing in return. Read aloud Luke 14:1,7-14. Ask your children how they would feel if you told them to take on more chores without ever expecting another raise in allowance. Emphasize that Jesus teaches us that it is our duty as his followers to take care of the needs of others and to do so without expecting repayment. Discuss what other types of rewards we can find when doing good things for others.  
Point out that we sometimes fall into the trap of wanting too many things and that, in the Our Father, we pray for "our daily bread," meaning that we pray for only that which we really need in life. Conclude this time together by praying aloud the Our Father.  
*Sirach 3:17-18,20,28-29 Psalm 68:4-7,10-11  
Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24 Luke 14:1,7-14*

**8th September - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Provide your children with a list of things that they are responsible for interspersed with things that they like to do** - for example, make their beds, take out the garbage, go to the park, do homework, watch television, have a snack,

feed the cat. The list should reflect their responsibilities and favorite recreations. Tell them to pretend that company is coming and ask which of the things listed should be done first. Explain that this is called setting priorities.  
Paraphrase the Gospel story for the children. Ask them what Jesus says is the most important thing for them to do. Jesus tells us that the number-one priority is to follow him. But just as it is not always easy to do the things we are supposed to do before doing the fun things, it is not always easy to be a follower of Jesus. Yet when we put Jesus first, we will be truly happy.  
*Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalm 90:3-4,5-6,12-13,14-17  
Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33*

**15th September - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Read or retell in your own words, the three stories from the Gospel.** Ask your children to recall games they play that involve losing or hiding something and then finding it. (Hide and Go Seek, Ghost in the Graveyard, Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?) Talk about how exciting it is to find the person or thing being looked for.  
Ask your children if they have any memories of losing something special or being lost themselves. Share the stories as well as the fears or feelings. Then tell them that just as you would go to any length to find and bring them home if they were lost, so too would God. That is what Jesus is telling us in the three stories. No matter what we do, no matter how wrong we are, God, our loving father, is always anxious to forgive us and welcome us back home.  
*Exodus 32:7-11,13-14 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,17,19  
1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32*

**22nd September - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Talk with your children about some things that they have done to show that they can be trusted.** Talk a bit about what it means to be responsible. Responsibility often means that we put aside something of passing value for something of greater value.  
Read together the short form of today's Gospel, Luke 16:10-13. Talk about the importance of responsible use of money and our material possessions. As a family, commit to one action that you will take this week to show that your family serves God and not money.  
*Amos 8:4-7 Psalm 113: 1-2,4-6,7-8  
1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 16:1-13*

**29th September - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Talk with your children about some of the things that they have that can be shared with others.** Ask your children to describe a time when they had to share something that they had. Ask if this was easy or difficult and why. Talk about some of ways in which your family shares your possessions. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 16:19-31. Consider together some reasons why the rich man may not have shared his riches with the poor man, Lazarus. Identify some reasons why we might share our possessions with others. Make a commitment as a family to do something this week in which you will choose to share your possessions with someone in need.  
*Amos 6:1,4-7 Psalm 146:7-10  
1 Timothy 6:11-16 Luke 16:19-31*





St Vincent de Paul Society *good works*

# Samantha's story of survival



**Samantha\* started life in Samoa as one of 10 children.** A childhood filled with trauma – emotional, physical and sexual abuse, separation from her parents, constantly moving and never having a home to call her own – set the pattern of vulnerability that has dogged her life.

Aged 25 and pregnant with her first child, Samantha moved to Australia with the man she would later marry. After separating from her husband, fearing for her safety when he tried to pursue her and the death of her mother in Samoa, Samantha found herself in a downward spiral. Struggling to survive, she began binge drinking and smoking. “I had abandoned myself in a way and was not caring for myself – this was my way of coping,” said Samantha.

In amongst this, Samantha fell

pregnant with her second child. Her partner also physically and mentally abused and tormented her on a daily basis. He destroyed her Citizenship Certificate, her children’s birth certificates, their school reports and clothes. At the end of her tether, she fled with her kids to a friend’s house, ending up in a shelter for several weeks. Sadly she soon returned to her ex-partner, after he begged forgiveness and insisted he’d changed. But, as Samantha puts it, “with little self-esteem and belief in yourself, it is easy to fall prey to others lies.” The abuse worsened and Samantha fled to another shelter three months later. She’d already sent her eldest child to live with his father to protect him and needed to get her other child and herself to safety. She and her five year old

A hand up from Vinnies at just the right time has turned Samantha’s life around and she and her children now have a bright future ahead of them.

son travelled overseas but soon returned to Australia. Upon her return her abusive ex-partner tracked her down and tried to kill her by sitting on her chest with a pillow over her head while her son slept beside her. Samantha spent the next five and a half years constantly moving. With only sporadic casual work, debt piled up and with no stable income, finding stable housing became impossible. She and her son lived in share accommodation, caravans, private rentals, and motel rooms. Sometimes they wandered the streets with their suitcases, worried where they would sleep for the night. Samantha lived with paranoia, a locked jaw and faintness. Traumatized, she was hearing voices - all symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Samantha’s job agency worker understood Samantha would find it difficult to find stable work without a place of her own, and contacted Vinnies Families Back on Track (FBOT). Samantha was

accepted into the transitional housing program, and soon she and her son moved into a fully furnished two bedroom unit. The Vinnies Support Worker worked with Samantha to set goals for herself and to guide her through achieving them. “I was encouraged to see a positive life for myself and my family and provided all the support I could want to help me achieve my goals,” said Samantha. Samantha was provided with support to get out of the cycle of pay-day loans, was referred to a psychiatrist and other health practitioners and participated in education and skills-building workshops. Samantha was beginning to take care of her physical and mental health and build self-confidence. “My Support Worker encouraged me to believe in my

strengths – my sense of humour, my insightfulness, my ability to provide a better life for my son. “Families Back on Track is not just a place, it was a home for me and my son. I was given respect and felt that I had dignity for the first time in my life. If it was not for Families Back on Track and their vision for me, I would not have been able to transcend my past and envision a better life for myself,” she says. Samantha has since gained a Counselling Diploma and completed a Diploma in Community Services. She dreams of going to university to study Psychology, wanting to pay the kindness she and her family received forward and help other domestic violence victims. *\*Real names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people we support.*

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

To donate visit:  
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or visit any local Vinnies Shop

HOW YOUR DONATION WILL HELP THIS YEAR:



The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia, Charity Number ABN 50 748 098 845, is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient and therefore gifts of two dollars or more to the Society in each State or Territory are tax deductible for the donor. For more information please contact your local St Vincent de Paul Society office. The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is exempt from income tax as a not-for-profit organization. Images and names have been changed to protect the privacy of the people we assist. The St Vincent de Paul Society follows the Australian Privacy Principles and keeps donors’ information private. To read a copy of our privacy policy please visit [www.vinnies.org.au/privacypolicy](http://www.vinnies.org.au/privacypolicy)

You have the power to shape awareness and inspire action in your own community.

\$30

provides a bed for someone in need of crisis accommodation for the night

\$75

provides a course in life skills: cooking, preparing for a job interview or basic computer skills

\$200

enables a group of children to take part in school holiday programs

\$100

provides one week's accommodation for women escaping domestic violence

\$1,000

prevents a family from being evicted from their home