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TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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FEBRUARY 2021

Pope Francis declares 2021 the Year of Saint Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

BY VATICAN NEWS

To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris*

corde against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A BELOVED, TENDER, OBEDIENT FATHER

Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

FULL STORY PAGE 4



Artwork by Ginger Miller

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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



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He takes his family to Egypt immediately (Matt 2:13), which parallels the earlier Joseph; he has the courage to face starting anew a third time, setting out from Egypt to go to Israel (Matt 2:20) and he going to Nazareth in Galilee rather than settle in Judea (Matt 2:22). Joseph can teach us to hear and trust our dreams and to make them a reality.

Joseph is the patron of a happy death. He seems not to have lived to see his foster son's public ministry and so might have died quite young. How could this be a happy death? Firstly, I picture him, like the first Joseph (Genesis 50:22-25), surrounded by those he loved with Mary on one side and Jesus on the other. Perhaps they are holding his hands. They are telling him that they love him and are grateful for his care, his love and his integrity and they remind him that God will provide for him even more richly than he was able to do for them. Secondly, he knows that he lived the dreams that God had given him with courage.

In St Michael's Cathedral there are three images of St Joseph and in all of them he is holding Christ. In the statue near the tabernacle, he is holding Christ up and offering him to us. And in this moment, Christ is blessing us. Before this image, we are invited to pray and light a candle for those blessings that we, our families and our world need. The statue over the Western door looks out over the children at play at St Joseph's primary school and, in my imagination, offers them protection and care.

I particularly engage with the image in the stained-glass window of Joseph holding the child and looking at him with tenderness and devotion. Perhaps everyone in our culture has a father wound. Fathers, perhaps because they have gone to war, worked at demanding jobs or had unhelpful role models themselves, have often not been able to be present emotionally for their children and to pass on their souls. This image can help us to know that we are loved and are enough to a significant man. **Let us feel not only his protection but his tenderness for us in this year. This will be healing for many of us.**

Pope Francis has declared a year of St Joseph from Dec 8 2020 to Dec 8 2021. This gives me a further chance to reflect on St Joseph.

Richard Rohr points out that St Joseph is a man of dreams every bit as much as Joseph of the coat of many colours in Genesis 37:1 – 50:26. Joseph, in Hebrew, means 'God will increase'.

The Joseph of the Old Testament was thrown down a well because of the envy of his brothers and eventually becomes the dream interpreter for Pharaoh and second in command of Egypt. 'Go to Joseph and do what he tells you', is the instruction the people, and we, are given (Genesis 41:55) and his promise, which Mary MacKillop took very seriously is 'I myself will provide for you and your dependents' (Genesis 50:21).

Dreams that God shares with us that take us on God's journey, protect and provide for families, may be more common that we are aware. Joseph has four dreams which he has the wisdom to interpret and the fortitude to carry out. In response to these dreams: he takes Mary home to be his wife knowing that the child she carries is conceived of the Holy Spirit (Matt 1:20-21);



Prayer Intention for February - Pray with Pope Francis

Violence against women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

Visit this link to hear the Pope deliver his monthly prayer:

<http://popesprayerusa.net/category/pope-video/>



**Pope's Worldwide
Prayer Network**

APOSTOLSHIP OF PRAYER

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

As more survivors of sexual assault are empowered to lift their voices and share their stories, we learn more of the depth, breadth, and gravity of violence that women experience in our world. In the home, patterns of intimate partner violence and domestic abuse mar the relationships meant to be most dear and sacred between two people. And in more subtle forms, women endure the emotional violence of harassment in the workplace, the classroom, and other spheres of public life.

Through the gospels, we know this not to be a novel problem, but one to which our faith can respond. Just as Christ intervenes to block the murder of a woman by stoning (John 8:3-11), we are also compelled to action, to the prevention of violence against women. It is not sufficient to drop the stones of judgement we may or may not possess. Rather,

following the example of Christ entails stepping in ourselves and rejecting the complacency of remaining a bystander.

Even in the case of our Blessed Mother, we find evidence of the violence women experience. As Joseph weighs quietly divorcing Mary (Matthew 1:17-19), Matthew reveals to us briefly the precarity of Mary's "Yes" at the Annunciation. Joseph's anxiety over the "public disgrace" likely was only the tip of the iceberg for an alleged adultery. Mary may have already been the subject of vicious rumours, but could the Mother of God have also been the target of stones?

Let us pray for those women who experience violence, in its many forms; that they find support, peace, and healing. Let us also pray that we, the Church, will respond to such instances with both the conviction of Christ and the compassion of his Mother, Mary.

Vale Archbishop Philip Wilson

Archbishop Philip Wilson, who served as Bishop of Wollongong and Archbishop of Adelaide during 45 years of priestly ministry, died in Adelaide on 17 January at the age of 70.

Born in the Hunter region of New South Wales, a young Philip Wilson studied at St Columba's College, Springwood and St Patrick's College Manly before being ordained a priest of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Ordained Bishop of Wollongong in 1996, he was seen as an important figure in introducing reforms to help the Catholic Church respond to the issue of child sexual abuse.

In 2001, he was appointed Archbishop of Adelaide, a post he held until his resignation in 2018.

He served as president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for two terms, from 2006 to 2010.

Archbishop Wilson had suffered a series of health problems in recent years, including cancer. Even so, his death on Sunday was unexpected.

"We know that Philip was much loved by people across the country, but especially in the places he served – in Maitland-Newcastle, in Wollongong and here in Adelaide,"

said Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, who last year succeeded Archbishop Wilson.

"He made major contributions to the Church and the wider communities in which he ministered, and was seen as a valuable part of the Bishops Conference, including during four years as president of the national assembly of about 40 bishops."

Archbishop O'Regan said while his predecessor had been charged with failing to respond adequately to allegations of child sexual abuse while a priest in the Hunter region, he was acquitted of all charges.

"A harrowing period of allegations, charges, conviction and eventually acquittal was a significant chapter on Philip's life, but his record of supporting and advocating on behalf of victims and survivors is part of his legacy," Archbishop O'Regan said.

"Philip knew what pain many people had endured and suffered as a result of the sickening actions of some within



the Church. He was part of the solution, and widely recognised as such."

Details of Archbishop Wilson's funeral have not yet been finalised.

Plenary Council assembly mixes in-person, online format

The first assembly of the Plenary Council will take place with a combination of online and face-to-face participation as uncertainty remains over restrictions on travel and gatherings.

The decision to hold the October 2021 assembly in a "multi-modal" format was reached last week based on feedback from a number of groups, including the steering committee for the Council assemblies, the Plenary Council's facilitation team and risk assessors.

Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said while COVID-19 travel restrictions might be lifted by the time of the first assembly, ongoing social distancing requirements and questions around flight schedules and costs were concerns.

"In announcing earlier this year the postponement of the first assembly for 12 months, we were confident that by October 2021 restrictions in relation to travel and public gatherings would have largely disappeared," he said.

"This now appears much less certain. Among other concerns, the Adelaide

venue we had selected was unlikely to be able to host the gathering of more than 300 people due to social distancing requirements."

Archbishop Costelloe said the bishops, during their biannual meeting last week, wrestled with the decision before conceding that the move to a multi-modal gathering was the only realistic option.

Under that format, delegates will gather in local groups – diocesan, inter-diocesan or provincial – and participate in some Council sessions within those groups. Other sessions will take place with those groups engaging in conversation, prayer and discernment with other groups around Australia.

"We recognised that in order for this to be a true plenary council, it couldn't solely take place within geographical regions," Archbishop Costelloe said.

"It's clear this isn't the preferred way forward, but there was a sense that we



couldn't just postpone the Council for another 12 months and hope for the best."

Peter Gates, from the Plenary Council's facilitation team, said while contingency planning for an online assembly began as the pandemic's second wave in Victoria unfolded, the decision to move to a "multi-modal" gathering means the planning can now proceed with urgency.

"We had essentially been preparing for an in-person gathering, while at the same time trying to devise a backup plan if COVID-related restrictions remained in place," he said.

"Now we can focus solely on ensuring

that the first assembly can honour and carry forward the listening, dialogue and discernment that has already taken place, albeit in ways we couldn't have imagined a year ago."

Archbishop Costelloe said it is important to remember that the Plenary Council is a years-long journey and that there will be a second assembly in Sydney in July 2022.

"The first assembly will inevitably take on a somewhat different flavour because of the multi-modal format, but the key principles of prayer, of discernment and of renewal in Christ remain central," he said.

COVER STORY

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people” (PC, 1). In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us” (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation” (3).

WELCOMING THE WILL OF GOD

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that explains, but accepts” — which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak” (4).

A CREATIVELY COURAGEOUS FATHER, EXAMPLE OF LOVE

Patris corde highlights “the creative courage” of St. Joseph, which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the

world, and especially those of migrants. In this sense, St. Joseph is “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.” As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot “be other than the guardian of the Church,” of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. “Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, “we must learn... to love the Church and the poor” (5).

A FATHER WHO TEACHES THE VALUE, DIGNITY AND JOY OF WORK

“A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” This aspect of Joseph’s character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become “a burning social issue” even in countries with a certain level of well-being. “there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron,” the Pope writes.

Work, he says, “is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.” Those who work, he explains, “are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.” Pope Francis encourages everyone “to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new ‘normal’ from which no one is excluded.” Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to “review our priorities” and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!” (6).

A FATHER “IN THE SHADOWS,” CENTRED ON MARY AND JESUS

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* - a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński - Pope Francis describes Joseph’s fatherhood of Jesus as “the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father.”



Pope Francis gives an address in the library of the Apostolic Palace. Credit: Vatican Media

“Fathers are not born, but made,” says Pope Francis. “A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.” Unfortunately, in today’s society, children “often seem orphans, lacking fathers” who are able to introduce them “to life and reality.” Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be “capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities.”

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a “most chaste” father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, “knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.”

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.”

True fathers, instead, “refuse to live the lives of their children for them,” and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that “he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes ‘useless,’ when he sees

that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied.” Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, “has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a ‘sign’ pointing to a greater fatherhood”: that of the “heavenly Father” (7).


A DAILY PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH... AND A CHALLENGE

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.**



YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

“Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life”

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021
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Year of Saint Joseph



"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"

REFLECTION - FEBRUARY 2021

"When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord."

Luke 2:22

Luke 2:22 shows that Joseph and Mary saw to it that, in every possible way, Jesus' birth and early life were conducted according to the will of God. The Gospel of Luke focuses more strongly on Mary, the mother of Jesus, than on her betrothed husband, Joseph. Nevertheless, by the time we hear this verse, early in the Gospel, we have learned some important facts about Joseph.

First, Joseph, who was betrothed to Mary, a virgin, was of the house and family of David (see Lk 1:27; 2:4). This means that Joseph traced his family tree back to the divinely chosen, anointed king of Israel: David. As an anointed king, David was, in the Hebrew language, a "messiah". As a result, any son of Joseph would be counted not only as a descendant of David, but potentially a messiah.

However, six centuries before the time of Jesus, David's messianic line had been exterminated. Since that time, the people of Israel had been waiting for God to provide them with another messiah who would bring a new time of great peace (see Isa 11:1-18). For this reason, Luke and the three other Gospels work very hard to show that Jesus is a legitimate son of David and thus the long-awaited messiah.

Second, Luke does not explain as the Gospel of Matthew does (see Matt 1:18-25) why Joseph decides to stay with Mary, who is pregnant before they are formally married. He simply states that Joseph went to Bethlehem to be registered in a census, going "with Mary to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child" (Lk 2:5). A few verses later (Lk 2:16), we are told that the shepherds found Joseph with Mary following the birth of Jesus. Culturally, a child was honourable when it was recognised and named by the father. Joseph, who Luke says was thought to be the baby's father

(see Luke 3:23), allows the child to be named "Jesus" (Lk 2:21) as the angel who appeared to Mary had instructed (Lk 1:31).

All these actions by Joseph show that he is a man of his word who has remained with the woman to whom he is engaged, despite a pregnancy for which he is not responsible. More than that, he has seen that woman through childbirth in hard circumstances and has given her and her son a respectable identity in the world.

All these small pieces of information, when put into the larger, divine scheme of events that Luke offers us, also suggest that Joseph is a man with a distinct role in God's desire to restore the world to right relationship with Godself. Joseph's descent from King David, the anointed one, makes it possible for Jesus, despite his humble birth, to be truly the long-awaited Messiah of the Jewish people. While he does not know the full picture, by choosing generously and courageously to accept Mary as his betrothed in difficult circumstances, Joseph enables God's will to be fulfilled.

More than this, Luke 2:22 indicates that Joseph is, in fact, a devout Jewish man who intentionally lives by God's word. The verse states that Joseph and Mary deliberately made an arduous journey to Jerusalem to complete the requirements of the law of Moses for a new-born son.

To understand this verse we need to do two things. First, we need to read it in context, as part of a long sentence that goes to the end of v. 24. Second, to receive the rich meaning of these verses we need to be aware of Old Testament texts, the Word of God, that are referred to in Luke 2:22-24.

First, then, although the sentence of verses 22-24 begins and ends talking about the religious purification of a mother after giving birth as required by the Jewish law (see Lev 12:6), the main statement of the sentence is that Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, according to a particular law of the Lord (Exod

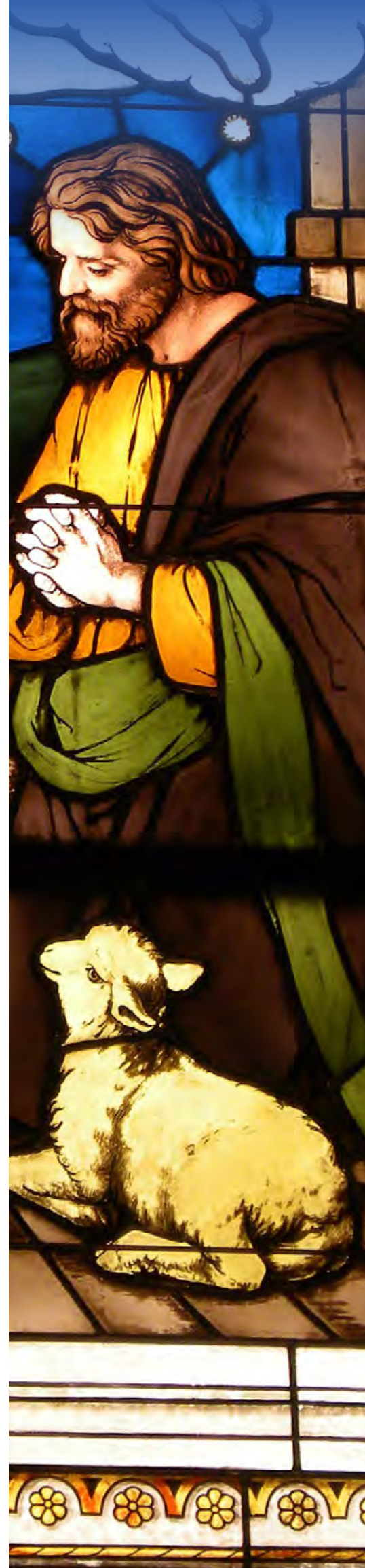
13:2, 12, 13), which is quoted for us in the middle of the sentence. There are also other Old Testament texts that may be echoed in this presentation of Jesus to the Lord, especially the story of Hannah presenting her son Samuel to the Lord in 1 Sam 1:24-28 (but see also Exod 22:29; Neh 10:35-36).

Thus, Joseph and Mary perform two religious acts when they take Jesus to Jerusalem: they present Jesus to the Lord and they also offer a sacrifice for the purification of the mother of Jesus. Both of these acts are based in the Word of God. In fact, in the course of verses 22-24, Luke refers three times to God's Word, calling it "the law of Moses," and twice "the law of the Lord." Clearly, Joseph is presented as responding most attentively to the Word of God as expressed in the Scriptures.

The most important result of Mary and Joseph's actions is that, from his very birth and introduction into the world, Jesus is fully righteous according to God's Word and is shown to be, potentially, the Messiah. Joseph, our point of interest, is presented as responding most attentively to the Word of God as stated in the Scriptures. Moreover, in his decision to stay faithful to Mary and her child, Joseph is portrayed for us in the Gospel of Luke as a man who cooperates courageously with God's will, by discerning it in the events occurring around him, about which he has to make real-life decisions.

Joseph is a wonderful model for Christians as we live in the world. The Word of God spoken in the Scriptures guides us, but many times we have to apply that Word in everyday situations where we must see the reality around us, decide what God desires us to do and then act courageously, justly and with compassion. Joseph shows us how to be persons of the Word of God, whether it is written in books or in the face of God's creation, unfolding in history.

Michele A. Connolly RSJ is a Scripture scholar who teaches New Testament Studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.



Ordination to the Diaconate and to the Priesthood

On Friday 11 December Rev Cyprian Onuorah was ordained to the Priesthood and Connell Perry was ordained to the Diaconate in a ceremony at St Michael's Cathedral.

BY KARENE EGGLETON

Friday 11 marked a great achievement and the acknowledgement of hard work and dedication from both Rev Cyprian Onuorah and Deacon Connell Perry being ordained to the Priesthood and Diaconate respectively.

Covid-19 made it an ordination with a difference with the number of attendees capped and many family members and supporters unable to attend due to travel restrictions.

The Most Reverend Mark Edwards OMI ordained both men whilst visiting priests and priests of our diocese concelebrated.

The Very Rev Fr Peter Thompson CM, the Rector of the Vianney

College Seminary was the presenter for the ordinations.

Fr Cyprian gave a moving speech which spoke highly of his parents, thanking them for their love and support.

Fr Cyprian is now works at the West Wagga Parish as Assistant Priest and Deacon Connell is feels very blessed to now be working at the Cathedral Parish.

Following is Fr Cyprians speech he made on the day and Deacon Connell's reflection on the beginning of his work as a Deacon:

Rev Cyprian Onourah Speech Appreciation

Dearest Brothers and sisters, my happiness today is not the happiness of a man who has conquered; for the battle is yet to begin; instead, it is that of a man who had experienced great mercy, faithfulness, forgiveness and love. The happiness which right now swells up in my heart and soul is that of a man who knows the past with all its difficulties, yet looks to the future with great hope and confidence in the Two United Hearts of Love, Jesus and Mary. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege granted me, to be counted among your servants.

I thank Bishop, Mark Edwards OMI, for accepting me and sharing your priesthood with me together with Connell whom you called to the diaconate. Bishop, we are grateful. Thanks to Archbishop



Fr Cyprian addresses the congregation.

Christopher Prowse, for journeying with me through to my diaconate life before the appointment of our bishop. Thanks to our Emeritus Bishop Gerard Hannah, under whom I became part of this diocese. I thank you, Fr Kevin, for your guidance throughout this year, together with Fr Murray and Fr Reece, the staff and the good people of St Michael's Cathedral. I thank Fr Peter Thompson, the rector of Vianney College for his guidance throughout my formation. I am aware that it would have been difficult without the support and cooperation of the staff. Therefore I thank also all the teams who worked with you in my training, the reverend Fathers, and Jackie, our excellent cook, and Margaret for helping in what we seminarians call 'human formation'. Thanks to my brother seminarians, for all your friendship and support. Also special thanks to Michael, who put this booklet together.

The sweet love of my parents

Dad, I stand in total appreciation for

the man you are to me, the wisdom you have inculcated in me. I thank you for being the lion in my life, cautioning me, training and loving me beyond measures. It was your encouragement and gentle advice that got me this far.

"Gratitude to all the priests, families and friends, who have been very instrumental in my journey to the priesthood, who always prayed for me and supported me."

Rev Cyprian Onuorah

I have carried within me and always wherever I go your voice, setting me on the right path. The stories of your youthful days and active participation in the life of the Church was my solid foundation on which my journey to the

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Diocese of Wagga Wagga ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE AND TO THE PRIESTHOOD



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

altar began. It was not just a story; it was a fact because I saw the pictures when you were an altar server and in the block rosary. You were the one who first introduced me to the breviary, the companion of a priest. See dad; you too had a dream of the priesthood which today has been fulfilled. I thank you for supporting me throughout my formation and not for once giving up on me. In this new journey, you remain now and always the lion in my life.

Sweetest Mother, you are the face of love that I have always beheld, and which impels me to the real act of love. I thank you for your excellent and watchful guidance, your constant admonition even from afar, so far there is a means of communication available, you never fail to use it to show me how you love me beyond measure. I did not set out on the journey to the priesthood on my own. It was your love for the Church and your care for many priests whom you met over the years that have seriously influenced me and set me on the path which I am on today. Having declared my intention to you, it did not surprise you because you were ever ready to make the gift of all your sons to the priesthood. You prayed for me and prayed me through any difficulties that ever presented itself as a stumbling

block. I am here today because of the gift of you in my life. I fervently ask you that as I embark on this life journey of a priest that your praying hands be firmer in supplication to God on my behalf and of the Church. I also thank my dearest family, my beloved sister (Ngozi Ann) and my brothers (Emmanuel, Christopher and Charles) and my cousin (Innocent). Their faith in me never wavered even in the darkest of times. I will always love you.

"I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone and being actively involved in the different pastoral ministries and services at such a vibrant parish."

Deacon Connell Perry

Gratitude to all the priests, families and friends, who have been very instrumental in my journey to the priesthood, who always prayed for me and supported me. May God almighty bless and reward you all.

Thanks also to the family & friends of Mr & Mrs Perry for the gift of their son Connell who answered the call to the diaconate, today. Your support and moral examples have inspired



Laying on of Hands - Bishop Mark Edwards OMI and Rev Cyprian Onuorah.

him; your prayers have sustained him during his seminary training. Please do continue to keep him in your prayers as he embarks in the final journey to the priesthood.

You all have played a vital role in my life, and I thank you all from the deepest part of my heart. Please keep the love and the prayers you have always had for me.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Speaking with Deacon Perry recently he reflected on his new role as a Deacon at St Michael's Cathedral.

"It has been such an awesome blessing to begin working at the Cathedral as a deacon and I am grateful to the bishop, priests and parishioners for the warm welcome they have given me. The support from family and friends throughout these early stages has been tremendously encouraging and they

will all be in my daily prayers. I look forward to continuing to get to know everyone and being actively involved in the different pastoral ministries and services at such a vibrant parish. It is such an exciting time to begin serving the people of God here in Wagga Wagga. Doing so many things for the first time as a deacon, especially when it comes to the sacraments and preaching, has filled me with such joy and awe at God's goodness and love for all of us. I truly hope that Jesus Christ can use me to do his work as we all answer God's call to holiness in our everyday lives, to become the saints he has called each one of us to be. Please keep sparing a prayer for me every now and then."

We wish you both all the very best in your journies and look forward to reporting on your many achievements to come.

Above: Fr Cyprian congratulated by clergy.

Below: Deacon Connell is called to stand before the Bishop.



Deacon Connell Perry with his very proud family.

Lenten penance explained

The Church’s Canon law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the saving love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need.

During Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world.

We must take seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choices. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of

- penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
- (a) prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
 - (b) self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one’s own country.
 - (c) helping others – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday (February 17) to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper (April 1) exclusive. On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash



Wednesday, February 17, and Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a

year.
**This is an edited version of a statement provided by Catholic Communications, Archdiocese of Sydney.*

Vatican modifies distribution of ashes for Ash Wednesday

The Congregation for Divine Worship releases a note laying out the procedures priests around the world are to follow for the distribution of ashes at the start of Lent.

BY VATICAN NEWS

The health situation caused by Covid-19 continues to forces changes on daily life, which are also reflected in the Church’s sphere.

Ahead of the beginning of Lent, on Wednesday, 17 February, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has published a note detailing how Catholic priests are to distribute ashes.

Instructions

After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest addresses those

present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.

At that point, the note continues, the priest “cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places.”

He then sprinkles the ashes on each person’s head “without saying anything.”



Pope Francis distributes ashes on Ash Wednesday 2020 (Vatican Media)

Pope Francis formally allows for more roles of women in the church

Pope Francis, in another step towards greater equality for women in the Roman Catholic Church, on Monday changed its law to formally allow them to serve as readers at liturgies, altar servers and distributors of communion.

In a decree, the pope formalized what already has been happening in many developed countries for years.

But by introducing the change in the Code of Canon Law, it will be impossible for conservative bishops to block women in their diocese from having those roles.

But the Vatican stressed that these roles were “essentially distinct from the ordained ministry,” meaning that they should not be seen as an automatic precursor to women one day being allowed to be ordained priests.

“The pontiff, therefore, has established that women can accede to these ministries and they are attributed by a liturgical function that institutionalizes them,” the Vatican said in an explanatory note.

In the decree, called “*Spiritus Domini*” (The Spirit of the Lord), Francis said he had taken his decision after theological reflection.

He said many bishops from around the world had said that the change was necessary to respond to the “needs of the times.”



Pope Francis said he wanted to recognize the “precious contribution” that women make to the church. Vatican Media, via Reuters



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The Erin Earth garden is a place to relax and unwind. Spring’s sights and sounds are sure to brighten and lighten your day.

Our half hectare native garden is open to the public Tuesdays and Wednesdays during school term, 9am - 4pm. 1 Kildare St Turvey Park.



New Church protocol published for responding to sexual abuse

A new protocol to be introduced early February provides a framework for Catholic entities across Australia to respond consistently to people raising concerns or allegations of child sexual abuse.

The National Response Protocol, which was adopted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference at its November 2020 plenary meeting, is the product of two years of work and widespread consultation within and beyond the Church.

That consultation included engagement with victims and survivors and their advocates.

“The Church continues to work hard to strengthen the safeguards that have been put in place in recent years,” Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

“The adoption and implementation of the National Response Protocol is an important step forward, and we thank those who have brought this thorough process to completion.”

"It is every adult's moral, ethical and legal responsibility to protect children. I hope all men and women in the church, in any role, embrace and support the protection of our innocent ones."

Damian Reeves
Professional Standards and Safeguarding Officer of the Diocese of WaggaWagga

In preparing the National Response Protocol, various state and territory regulatory and legislative requirements, across different sectors and settings, were considered. The NRP sets a “national benchmark against which local policies and procedures should be aligned”.

Archbishop Coleridge said that as well as outlining principles and processes for responding to concerns and allegations of abuse, whether historical or contemporary, the protocol also offers guidance on how to engage with those affected by abuse.

“Drawing on wisdom from the Royal Commission, from governments and universities, and from the experience of the Church overseas, the new protocol offers a trauma-informed approach to supporting those who have been betrayed in Church settings,” he said.

“The protocol demands an approach

from the Church that is compassionate and just. It also insists upon respect for each individual's personal story and circumstances.”

The implementation of the National Response Protocol from February 1 will mean that *Towards Healing* and *The Melbourne Response* will be phased out.

“Pioneering in some ways when set up in the 1990s, the two earlier protocols have been much criticised, in large part because of inconsistent or incomplete application,” Archbishop Coleridge explained.

“One of the strengths of the new protocol is that it provides a single national framework, which will ensure a consistent approach to the handling of concerns and allegations.”

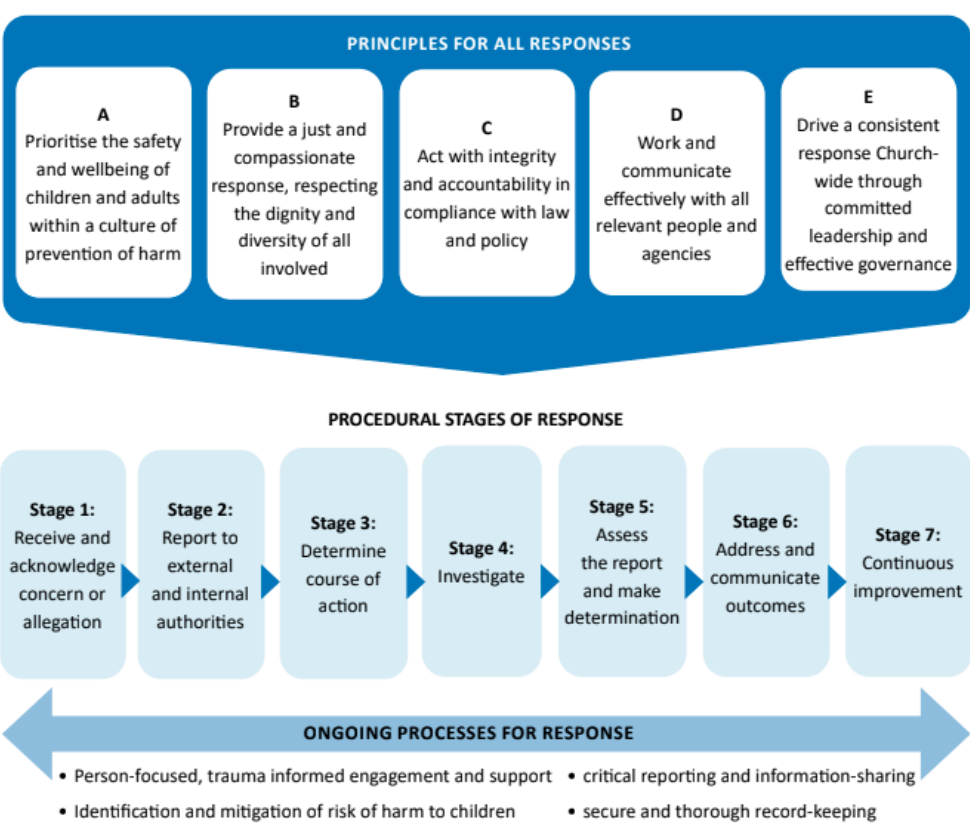
Church entities that have matters already being managed under *Towards Healing* or *The Melbourne Response* can continue to use those processes until the matter is resolved. *Towards Healing* and *The Melbourne Response* continue to be valid until the end of 2021 while Church authorities implement the National Response Protocol locally.

Damian Reeves, the Professional Standards and Safeguarding Officer of the Diocese of WaggaWagga gave the following statement:

The new just released National Response Protocols released by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference the first week of February, aim to implement consistency and best benchmark practice where child sexual abuse allegations or concerns are raised, whether historical or current.

As the manager of the Professional Standards Office and Safeguarding Team part of my mandate is to provide leadership in support of the diocese's vision to ensure that all children, young people and vulnerable adults engaged within the dioceses are safe and protected from all forms of harm as much as possible wherever we can. There is a specific focus to enhance practical systems at the moment to protect children, and I expect the new National Response Protocols to support and guide our systems and real responses to the issues that arise through the Diocese Professional Standards Office.

This office is a resource for Parishes



and agencies and they are always welcome to ask us for support and help in implementing child safety measures. I also want to ensure schools are fully supported to make sure there is an open understanding amongst children and their families, and employees to report breaches of appropriate behaviours, and naturally criminal matters are picked up and immediately reported to police. We need to break through a sometimes common erroneous perception that having Working with Children checks for all employees and volunteers, somehow protects children and that's enough that needs to be done. The National Response protocols are a practical resource guide to help reach the goal of best practise in these protective roles to mitigate risk, and more importantly implement appropriate controls and responses to keep our children, youth and vulnerable safe.

However I wish readers to be mindful that there is no one measure which will successfully protect children on its own. Testimony, key learning and research emanating from Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse inform us of the matrix of measures required to create child safe organisations. Amongst many appropriate response, all concerns regarding child abuse need to be immediately acted upon and reported in line with our organisational processes and to the police or the Department of Communities and Justice.

Research undertaken and testimony gathered from victim/survivors by the Royal Commission emphasised the central element that organisational culture plays in the incidence of child abuse. We now know that the misuse of power

and the historical lack of transparency contributed to a culture of silence. This was common against all institutions, religious or not decades ago. The suffering caused by abuse is unfathomable. It is truly agonising to read the testimony of victims of abuse. The protocols provide guidance on engaging those affected by abuse.

Therefore in line with these protocols we need to create a culture of safeguarding children, led from the highest levels with the Church and adhered to by every single adult in the diocese, clergy, lay-leaders, employees, teachers, volunteers and parishioners. The risk of child abuse can only be addressed through systemic change. We cannot afford to ever be complacent about child safety. The risks are great and the toll of failure is too high. Zero tolerance is the goal, zero incidents, zero harm. It's not about the right checks it is about the right steps at all points of information receiving via allegations, concerns, disclosures and claims, as per these new protocols, we must foster “a culture of prevention of harm”.

Simplified, institutional governance translates to ‘how we do things around here’ and a leadership commitment promoted through these protocols, which Bishop Edwards has publicly expressed by a signed statement and by his actions since coming to the Diocese last year, is of singular importance. If the governance structures, policies and procedures prioritise the safety of children, set clear behavioural expectations, view their engagement with children through a child safety lens and empower people to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration is a devotion that has been practiced by Catholics for many centuries. It is Adoring or Honouring the Eucharistic Presence of Christ.

The contemplation of the Mystery of Christ truly present before us. The Eucharist is: Jesus truly present - Body, Blood and Divinity.

In this devotion a Consecrated Host is exposed on the altar for the solemn veneration of the faithful.

In Wagga Wagga a roster of folk from each of the four parishes has been operating

since September of 1995. The roster is designed so that two people attend a set hour each week. Until the Covid restrictions prevented it, Adoration was held in the Bishops Chapel behind St Michael's Cathedral. During the period of recess, a room at the far-left end of the building that houses the St Michael's priest's cars has been renovated to create a new Chapel. This

Chapel is equipped with a new Altar, new furniture, new air conditioning and includes a toilet. The access door is lockable from the inside for security.

The roster begins at 8:00am each Monday and continues with adorers changing each hour until 8:00pm on Friday. On Friday nights the roster continues at Holy Trinity Church at Ashmont from 9:00pm to 7:00am on Saturday.

There is no Adoration on public holidays and the Christmas break resumes in



The Adoration Chapel crucifix.



The Adoration Chapel altar.



The Adoration Chapel tabernacle.

February the next year. How the hour is spent is entirely up to the Adorer, by formal prayer, reading appropriate material, placing issues before the Lord, in thanksgiving, and or listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The hour passes quickly, the peace and silence is found to be most rewarding.

How to be involved;

Currently there are a number of hours where only one person is attending, so some vacancies exist. A person joining the roster will preferably select an hour with a vacancy, but this is not a requirement.

For details on selecting an hour or joining as a substitute, please contact John Evans 0410 026 796 or 6922 6287.

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FEBRUARY 2021 - TOGETHER

1000th Legion of Mary meeting in Lavington

There was excitement and celebrations at Holy Spirit Parish, Lavington recently as two Legion of Mary praesidia celebrated their 1000th meeting.

Rosa Mystica Praesidium celebrated their 1000th meeting on 27th October 2020. This Praesidia began at Holy Spirit Parish in 1999 as a daytime group.

Mother of Christ Praesidium celebrated its 1000th meeting on 27th January 2021. This Praesidium began shortly after Rosa Mystica in 2000 as an evening group for those members who were working

during the day. Many of the original members are still attending. Both groups are spiritually supported by the parish Priests of Holy Spirit as Spiritual Directors.

In 1949 Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Praesidium began working at Lavington. This legion group persisted until well into the 1990's and in the 80's another praesidium ran concurrently in Lavington called Our Lady help of

Christians Praesidium. For a short while there was no Legion at Holy Spirit but not for long.

Our records show, that as far back as the 1940's Legionaries were visiting hospitals, instructing children attending public schools, visiting homes, helping in the churches and spreading the faith by literature and personal contact. All much the same as today's Legion work.

Top right: Rosa Mystica Praesidium (left to right) John Fagin, Christine Tingle (Secretary), Michael Katalinic (President), Janice Elsey (Vice President), Max Hausler, Marie Tomer, Father Peter Murphy (Spiritual Director). Absent: Lorraine Amarant (Treasurer).

Right: Mother of Christ Praesidium Kolet Mahoni (Treasurer), Mary Regan, Caroline Sharrock (President), Mary Fletcher, Fr Brendan Lee (Spiritual Director), Karlyn Boyer, Cathy Moriarty (Secretary) (seated) Elizabeth Schubert (Vice President), Salima. Absent: Patricia Evans.



300th Legion meeting of Mary Help of Christians juniors

Mary Help of Christians Junior praesidium held its 300th Legion of Mary meeting at the end of last year.

Celebrations included a combined meeting with the other junior legion group and special legion visitors from Holy Spirit Parish. An afternoon tea was held at the conclusion of the meeting to enjoy this milestone.

Fr Brendan Lee is the Spiritual Director and the President is Mrs Clare Ryan. Mr Kevin Tingle assists with meetings. Students attending are from Kinder to Year 5.

Queen of Confessors is the other praesidium which is made up of

Year 6 and High School students.

Fr Chris Heffernan is the Spiritual Director and President is Mrs Christine Tingle.

Legion meetings are held weekly at St Mary MacKillop College, Jindera.



Six Bishops and 65 years of marriage

One of the blessings of Bishop Mark Edwards first visit to Urana in August was the revelation by a parishioner that he knew the first bishop of Wagga Wagga.

BY FR HENRY IBE

Mr. Gerald Dore (96) was confirmed by Bishop Joseph Wilfrid Dwyer in 1938 at the Urana Church. That means he has now met all the six bishops of the diocese, a fact that inspired my recent visit to his family home in Urana for an interview.

Gerald is one of the six children of Joseph Thomas Dore and Margaret Mary McMahon. His great-grandfather came from Ireland and settled in Dandenong. His grandfather subsequently moved to Pakenham in the Gippsland area, where Gerald's father was born. Losing their parents early in life, Joseph Dore and his brother (Ned) moved to Brookong as sharefarmers. And from there they leased a property on the banks of Lake Urana where Gerald was born in January 1925. This was during the time of Fr. Patrick Hanrahan who looked after Urana from Lockhart parish. Gerald's mother, Margaret Mary McMahon came from Yarrawonga, and her own grandfather came from Tipperary in Ireland and settled in Kilmore (Vic), and then on to Yarrawonga.

Gerald Dore went to the public school in Urana and graduated with the Intermediate

School Certificate in 1939. The Second World War had just begun, and Gerald was conscripted not as a combatant but as a farmhand to help grow food for a nation at war, in the years of severe drought. His two older brothers, Maurice and Kevin both fought in the war, and his Cousin, John was killed in action at Bougainville in 1945.

Gerald met his wife, Kathy in 1954. It was at his sister's wedding where he was the best man, and she the bridesmaid. Kathy was born in Yarrawonga and went to boarding school at the Urana Convent. At the end of her schooling, Kathy left Urana with a vow "never to come back to this place again." But she said, "I was back when I was 19," never to leave again. This was when she got married to Gerald in 1955. After their marriage, the new couple moved into a little property at Doreen, off the Urana-Morundah Road. They had no electricity in the house for the first four years. They are blessed with 6 children, 23 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. Currently, they are enjoying their retirement and are looking forward to their 66th wedding anniversary next May.

On the bishops, Gerald recalled his confirmation by Bishop Joseph Dwyer in



Gerald and Kath Dore with their dog Lacie.

1938 at the Urana Church. He has clear memories of the arrival of Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke from South Australia in 1939. Next, Gerald remembers meeting the young Francis Carrol when he visited Urana as a student, accompanying Fr. Bongiorno. Francis went on to become Fr. Carrol, and then Bishop Carrol in 1968. Gerald also spoke about the time of Bishop William Brennan, and of Bishop Gerard Hanna, whom he first met as Fr. Hanna in Moree. And then he met Bishop Mark Edwards, making him the only one in the Lockhart/Urana/Oaklands area with the unique experience of having met all the six bishops of the Wagga diocese to date.

All through the interview, Gerald was very clear and precise in his recollections, notwithstanding his 96 years of age. He remembers some of the priests who worked in the area previously, like Fr. Jerome Hennessy who was a "very rough driver", Fr. Gallagher who enlisted as an army chaplain, and Fr. Lane who built the Urana convent at the cost of £1,800 in 1941. On a lighter note, I asked Gerald about the Melbourne Cup and his earliest memory was the 1931 edition, followed by the spectacular wins of Peter Pan in 1932 and 1934.

Overall Mr. Dore is grateful for the good and long life that he has been blessed with. He counts himself very fortunate to still be alive and healthy despite the prostrate cancer scare he had some years ago. He extolled the beauty of marriage and said that the best thing he ever did was to get married to Kathy, whom he described as a "lovely cook, wonderful homemaker, and very good mum" to their 6 children. Lending her voice, Kathy spoke of the great experience of being married to Gerald these past 65 years. They are both grateful for their great life together and emphasized the importance of their Catholic religion. No matter the challenges, they always put their trust in God, and everything always worked out well in the end. In Kathy's words: "Nothing terribly serious ever happened to us... We never lost a child, and no one was born with problems."

In all, I was very privileged to share a couple of hours with Gerald and Kathy Dore of Urana, and the lunch was very good. Before taking my leave, the couple took me to their garden where I saw a mulberry tree for the first time, outside of Scripture. And the lesson I learnt about the fruit is that when it is red, it is green (unripe). It needs to be black to be ripe.



Gerald meets Bishop Mark Edwards OMI.

PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. There is a different story for each week of Lent for you to see how Project Compassion is making a difference.

Jamila from Bangladesh

Twenty-two-year-old, Jamila, is a single mother, living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. A Rohingya woman, she fled the armed conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State to save herself, her elderly mother and baby daughter. Having been abandoned by her husband, she faced life in the camp on her own.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people, have crossed into Bangladesh since August 2017. Over 1.3 million people remain in the densely populated camps, in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Thanks to the generosity of Caritas Australia's supporters and through our partnership with Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila had access to emergency food and shelter. Then, as her stay in the camp stretched on, Jamila joined the Women Friendly Spaces project where she received counselling and emotional support. She learnt about health and hygiene, participated in a parenting program and learnt sewing skills, to help her to earn an income.

Jamila now has a sense of community around her and feels less alone and more supported - and she is able to 'Be More' to her family.

Watch Jamila's story at:
<https://youtu.be/kmXVXI74Qm8>

"I want to offer my thankful greetings to those who are kindly thinking of us from overseas. Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia."

Jamila



Jamila is seen washing her dishes close to her shelter in Camp 20 extension Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazaar region of Bangladesh in July 2020.



Jamila with participants at the Women Friendly Spaces project at the Rohingya refugee camp.

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more" - Saint Oscar Romero

Margret from Solomon Islands

Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. The school faced water shortages for about half the year.

Staff and students would walk for up to half an hour to collect water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables. Then in April 2020, amidst the threat of COVID-19, Tropical Cyclone Harold struck, damaging school buildings and its vegetable garden.

With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed eight large water tanks and provided cyclone-proof materials to repair the damage. It also helped the school to implement COVID-19 prevention measures, providing fabric for students to make face masks.

Margret's school now has enough safe water to supply the school's population of 150 and has the capacity to cater for more students. It plans to boost food security, by increasing its agricultural production. This will improve nutrition and boost the school's income, while building resilience to future disasters.

Margret hopes that the school can aspire to 'Be More'.

Watch Margret's story at:
<https://youtu.be/Zy8zZXEMt-U>



"I am proud that our school community works together with Caritas Australia as our partner in ensuring that we live in a healthier environment."

Margret



Above and below: Margret helping feed the animals and tend to the crops at the San Isidro Care Centre.




Margret at the San Isidro Care Centre in Guadalcanal province, Solomon Islands October 2020.



PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations,
As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
May our fasting strengthen our
commitment to live in solidarity,
Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and
Our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Through living simply and loving generously,
May we care for our global family
and our common home, as we
"Aspire not to have more, but to be more".
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

*Saint Oscar Romero



"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things, with great love."
(Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

Oliva from Tanzania

Twenty-two-year-old Oliva lives in Tanzania with her farmer husband, two young sons and an adopted niece and nephew. She didn't have the opportunity to go to school growing up - and was embarrassed that she couldn't read, write or count.

Around 25 percent of Tanzanian girls and women over 15 years cannot read or write, with many families unable to afford school fees or uniforms.

Now, as an adult, Oliva runs a kiosk and works as a farm labourer - but her business was losing money because she couldn't add up.

Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia-supported literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a classroom at home to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, as have some of her students. Attendance at her classes is growing, her kiosk is thriving

and she can help her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election.

Oliva aspires to 'Be More' and wants to help her community to achieve its vision of a better life for all.

Watch Oliva's story at:
<https://youtu.be/gENizPmzsEM>

"I am proud to be a teacher who helps others to achieve their dream."

Oliva



Oliva has a picture taken with her husband Thomas and sons Tumaini (7) and Shedrack (2) outside their home in Karatu District in Tanzania August 2020.



Oliva graduated from Caritas Australia supported literacy and numeracy classes.

"In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others." Pope Francis

With thanks from Catholic Mission

As the Catholic Mission pilgrimage around the Diocese of Wagga Wagga drew to a close for 2020 there was much to give thanks for...

BY JANE PLUM
Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission, Wagga Wagga

John Goonan, the previous Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission, has been an ongoing mentor and coach for me and champion for Catholic Mission.

I am grateful to John for his preparedness to be on call to answer my many and varied questions. His deep and wide knowledge of the organisation and his heartfelt commitment to social justice continue to be a source of inspiration.

Bishop Mark Edwards wisely advised me to go gently in this time of the Covid 19 Pandemic and focus on thanking the generous people of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga for all that they have given. This enabled me to focus on sharing the story of the residents of the Arrupe Centre in Battambang, Cambodia and emphasise the significance of prayer in supporting those in need. As Pope Francis reminds us, *"Prayer is the first missionary work*

that every Christian can and must do, and it is also the most effective even if it cannot be measured." (Vatican City, May 28, 2018)

Thanks go to all the parishes from St Patrick's Albury in the south east to Sacred Heart Griffith in the north west of the Diocese, who gave me the opportunity to speak in the church and meet members of their communities. Mons. Doug George and the generous members of the Coolamon and Marrar Catholic community welcomed me as I spoke publicly for Catholic Mission for the first time as the Covid restrictions were eased somewhat. I enjoyed sharing a cuppa after Mass at places like Grong Grong and sharing a meal at the club with a group of ladies from Howlong. I appreciated the generosity of family and friends in Howlong, Albury, Griffith and Tocumwal who supported Catholic



Jane Plum, Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission, Wagga Wagga visiting Fr Paddy Sykes at Our Lady of Fatima.



Year 4 Henschke Primary students participated in Mission Month.

Mission by providing the hospitality of accommodation.

As much as I wanted to visit every parish in my first year, the Spirit working through those that declined supported my personal wellbeing. Nevertheless, many of these parishes promoted the work of Catholic Mission and "passed the hat around" for our partners in Cambodia and around the world.

On behalf of our partners I thank the school communities of the Diocese for their continued focus on Mission. Thank you for taking the opportunity to use the Catholic Mission formation resources to teach your students about Catholic Social Teaching and to give students and their families the opportunity to give financially to support the work of Catholic Mission. I acknowledge the complexity of school life in the best of times; however, the demands of this year have been particularly taxing for teachers and leaders, students and their parents and care givers. I was grateful for the opportunity to spend time with students at Sacred Heart, Tocumwal and Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga to work with them in expanding our understanding of God's Mission and what that means for us as individuals, organisations and communities.

Thank you, Henschke Primary, for inviting Luke Tobin: Adult Formation

Catholic Mission National Office to facilitate a staff formation day on Catholic Social Teaching (CST) particularly the Dignity of the Human Person. Through interactive and immersive activities staff were given time to explore the concepts of solidarity and subsidiarity using the posters the Year 4s had created. The feedback from staff was extremely positive including this statement, "The day made me consider how I could make sure that I use CST as a framework to live out God's Mission daily." Thank you also to Luke Tobin, for accepting the invitation.

Across this most extraordinary year of the Covid 19 Pandemic the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga has been remarkable. In a time of great uncertainty where the people of the Majority World are further disenfranchised and at far greater risk of harm, the continuation of your care through prayer and financial support is a way in which you honour the dignity of each person.

May Advent and the Christmas season have been a time of joy and peace for you and yours.



The Legion of Mary Centenary 2021

The Legion of Mary is celebrating its Centenary in September this year and we would like to share a series of ‘What the Legion of Mary means to me’ testimonies from different members over the next few months as well as our plans for ways in which we will mark this significant milestone.

BY CARONNE VELLA

In keeping with the Legion of Mary confidential ‘way’ the testimonies will be published anonymously.

Here is the first one:
I joined the Legion of Mary after being invited by a friend. I was very hesitant to take the final step of commitment to full membership because I felt like I didn't have enough time for the commitments I already had besides feeling completely overwhelmed by my domestic duties with a husband and 3 young children, including a pre-schooler, to look after... My friend reassured me that ‘Mary would help clear the way’. I'm so glad I persevered and trusted enough to take the plunge! Mary is still helping to ‘clear the way’ - it's an ongoing struggle - but the gift of the Legion in my life is just that - a gift. The Legion handbook is a never-ending source of spiritual enrichment and I come away from the weekly meeting, especially Fr's Allocutio, (Spiritual Direction) feeling nourished, encouraged and uplifted in my faith. Our meeting is at 5:45pm on Thursdays at the Bishop's House. My main work is helping to run the Cathedral Junior Legion which my children attend (on Thursdays at 3:45 p.m). I really love going visiting - it's interesting to meet so many different people and share their stories and most do seem to appreciate a break in the daily routine of life... It's amazing how a smile and a friendly word can be so infectious! My children also practise and sing with the Cecilian Choir and this is part of their ‘work’. I would encourage

everyone to come and give the Legion of Mary a try - you never know - you might fall in love with it like I have!
The Legion Of Mary is a lay Catholic organisation whose members are giving service to the church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. The Legion was founded by Frank Duff on 7 September, 1921 in Dublin. His idea was to help Catholic laypeople fulfil their baptismal promises and be able to live their dedication to the Church in an organised structure, supported by fraternity and prayer.
The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, both in their homes and in hospitals and through collaboration in every apostolic



and missionary undertaking by the parish.
Every legionary is required to carry out a weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.
“For all states of the laity the perfect example of spiritual and apostolic life is the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles, who while leading the life common to all on earth, one filled with family concerns and labours, was always intimately united with her Son and in an entirely unique way co-operated in the work of the Saviour.....All should devoutly venerate her and commend their life and apostolate to her maternal care.”
The unit of the Legion of Mary is called a praesidium, which holds a weekly meeting, where prayer is intermingled with reports and discussion.
Persons who wish to join the Legion must apply for membership in a Praesidium. (Taken from Legion of Mary <https://legionofmary.org.au/>)

Below is a list of current Praesidia (Legion of Mary groups) for your information. If you would like to join Our Lady's 'SAS'* please contact your Parish.

Name	Location	Meeting time	Spiritual Director
Our Lady of Fatima	Holy Trinity, West Wagga Wagga	Wed, 7pm	TBA
Our Lady Help of Christians	St Brendan's, Ganmain	Wed, 2pm	Fr Justin Darlow
Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit	Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga	Fri, 1:30pm	TBA
Our Lady Star of the Sea (Juniors)	St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga	Wed, 3:45pm	Fr Reece Beltrame
Our Lady Seat of Wisdom	Vianney Seminary, Wagga Wagga	Thu, 3:40pm	Fr Steven Ledinich
Our Lady Queen of Heaven	St Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga	Thu, 5.45pm	Fr Damien Jellett
Our Lady Gate of Heaven	St Joseph's, Leeton	Tue, 5pm	Fr Anthony Dunne
Our Lady of Cana	St Mel's, Narrandera	Thu, 6pm	Fr Bradley Rafter
Our Lady Ark of the Covenant	St Mary's, The Rock	Mon, 7pm	Fr Gabriel Murray

* The British Special Air Service, known as the SAS, is the infantry counterpart to the Special Boat Service. Their insignia bears the phrase "Who dares wins." Asked about the importance of the SAS's role in the fighting that followed the Iraq War, US Gen. Stanley McChrystal said: "Essential. Could not have done it without them."



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New online *Buried in Treasures* program starts February

A new series of Catholic Healthcare's popular *Buried in Treasures* program starts from 22 February 2021, delivered by Home Care's Hoarding and Squalor team.

***Buried in Treasures* is a 15-week online program developed to support people living in NSW who have a tendency to accumulate excessive items, or find it difficult to part with them.**

The free program is open to people across NSW who are eligible for the government's Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)*. It is based on the successful self-help book *Buried in Treasures: Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving, and Hoarding*, written by Dr Randy Frost, Dr David Tolin, and Dr Gail Steketee who are among the world's leading experts in the study and treatment of hoarding disorder.

Topics covered include:

- Understanding hoarding and why people collect
- Motivation and confidence to get started with organising clutter
- Practical skills and strategies for

deciding which items to save, and resisting the temptation to collect more

- Overcoming feelings of anxiety and/or depression

One of the features of the program is the opportunity for participants to meet others who understand, all in a supportive and respectful environment. Each participant also receives a copy of the *Buried in Treasures* book.

Catholic Healthcare is running *Buried in Treasures* Information Sessions for individuals, families and referrers from 16 February. *The Buried in Treasures* online program commences from Monday, 22 February.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from participating in *Buried in Treasures*, please forward this event link on the Catholic Healthcare website which includes details on upcoming Information



Sessions, and course dates visit:

<https://www.catholichealthcare.com.au/events/buried-in-treasures-support-groups/>
For further details please call 1300 345 852

** To be eligible for CHSP, you must be aged 65 years or older (50 years or older for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people), or 50 years or older (45 years or older for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) and on a low income, homeless, or at risk of being homeless.*

Sign nuclear weapons treaty, Prime Minister urged

The Bishop Delegate for Social Justice has written to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, urging Australia to join the countries who have signed a treaty to ban nuclear weapons that came into force in January.

The majority of United Nations member states, including the Holy See, have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Australia, however, has not yet become a signatory.

In his letter to Mr Morrison, Bishop Terry Brady explained that the elimination of nuclear weapons would be a major step towards creating peace in the world.

"Experience has taught us that the threat of mutual destruction – with the possibility of the total destruction of humankind and our common home – cannot provide a foundation for peace and security in the multipolar world of the twenty-first century," Bishop Brady wrote.

"Nuclear weapons are incapable of addressing terrorism, asymmetrical conflicts, cybersecurity, ecological problems, or poverty.

"Any use of nuclear weapons is clearly immoral as they are inherently indiscriminate and their impact is uncontainable in time and space."

Bishop Brady said the continued availability of nuclear weapons "poses an unacceptable risk of deliberate or accidental use, and it diverts resources from the things that positively foster peace".

Bishop Brady's letter is not the first effort by Catholic and other religious leaders to call for the Australian Government to sign the treaty.

In August last year, dozens of religious groups, including the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, Mission and Service, Catholic Religious Australia and a number of Catholic religious institutes signed an open letter to the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader.

Pope Francis has been an international leader in calling for the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Speaking to a 2017 UN conference focused on creating something like the current treaty, the Pope said: "International peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation, or on simply maintaining a balance of power.

"Peace must be built on justice, on integral human development, on respect for fundamental human rights, on the protection of creation, on the participation of all in public life, on trust between peoples, on the support of peaceful institutions, on access to education and health, on dialogue and solidarity."

Bishop Brady's letter tells the Prime Minister that "these positive foundations of peace" are commitments that successive



Bishop Terry Brady

Australian governments have held.

"However, the impact of these efforts is undermined by the continuing existence of nuclear weapons which create fear, undermine relationships of trust, and constrain dialogue," he wrote.

"It is time for Australia to begin the process of stepping away from all involvement with nuclear weapons by signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

Update from the Women's Life Centre

Thank you for your contribution to Women's Life Centre in 2020 whether it be by your volunteer help, financial or prayerful support.

BY PETA EVANS

Coordinator - Women's Life Centre

Despite the difficult restrictions due to COVID we were initially able to still operate the café for takeaway one day a week as well as offering the counselling service for 3 days per week.

The following are some highlights from the past year:

- Even though there was less foot traffic due to COVID and the café not operational much of the time we still had over 100 contacts through the counselling service. We had reduced volunteers, but we were still able to meet the needs of those facing crisis pregnancy and post abortion healing for those who had contacted our service.
- We were able to build up greater relationships with clients as many of those contacts were ongoing counselling sessions.
- We initiated a young mother's support group and during COVID were able to host them and their babies/toddlers into the centre to connect with other mums over coffee. At these sessions we hosted guest speakers from Tresillian and O-Health.
- We trialled two new courses on post abortion healing as well as sexual integrity.
- We launched the Mother and Bubba joy gift box, which is a collection of mother and baby items both bought and

home-made that we can give to clients as well as sell to our community of supporters for fundraising. Boxes are now available for purchase through our website and at the centre. :<https://www.womenslifecentrealbury.org.au/shop>

- We began our High Tea fundraisers once a month. These have been well attended and have been a successful means of both raising money and still ensuring our community can connect with the Life Centre and hear about our service.
- We have given 'Hope, Help and Healing' through our service by providing; free pregnancy testing, individual and couple crisis pregnancy counselling, ongoing mentoring and support for mothers, sexual integrity education to help women make better choices about relationships, financial help, ultrasounds, and GP support.

This coming year we hope to keep growing the work of the Life centre in the following ways:

- Improving our policies and procedures, to better support our staff and volunteers.
- Train more volunteers during the start of this year in using the L.O.V.E approach provided through Pregnancy Help Australia. With an increase of volunteers, we hope to move from



3-4 days per week for the counselling service in the latter half of the year.

- Improve our communication with churches and community groups about our services.
- Continue our fundraising through the café and 'High Tea' events. Reopening the café on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- Organise a WLC event/dinner for the second half of the year to connect with the community and support and encourage ourselves and others in this life affirming mission.
- We have an exciting year ahead of

us, and we are so thankful for your continued support, if you would like to get involved, or have previously been involved and want to help again, please get in touch!

Women's Life Centre
Free Pregnancy Help
327 Urana Road
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or 0438 407 914

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The hopes of the Christians of Baghdeda for the papal visit

Pope Francis is due to visit Iraq from 5th to 8th March this year. One of the places on his proposed route is the town of Qaraqosh – or Baghdeda.



As it is known to the Christians – some 25 miles (32 km) to the east of Mosul. Prior to the invasion by the so-called Islamic State (IS) it was the most populous Christian city in Iraq.

Today, since the region was reconquered by the Iraqi forces and their allies in October 2016, tens of thousands of displaced Christians have returned to their former homes. According to the latest information published by the international Catholic pastoral charity and pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN International), which helped in the repair and rebuilding of these houses, some 43% of the Christian families who formerly lived in Baghdeda prior to the IS invasion have since returned. ACN spoke to three Christians involved in the reconstruction work in the city and asked them what they were hoping for from the Pope's visit.

Rooney Baqtar, a 42-year-old engineer:

What does this visit mean to you?

This visit has a moral value rather than an economic one. This is a topic that will engage public opinion around the world and especially in Iraq. I feel as though I have an important part to play in it.

What would you like to say to the Holy Father?

It would be wonderful to be able to meet him, and I would like to be able to say to him, "We need international protection because our Christian community was forcibly displaced."

What would you like to show him in Qaraqosh/ Baghdeda? What places should he visit?

I would like to be able to show him the churches and houses that were burnt out so that he could see the destruction left behind

by IS in this city. And also our Baghdeda Heritage Museum, so that we can show him our history and culture.

Father Ammar Yako, a Syrian Catholic priest, aged 44:

What does the visit mean to you?

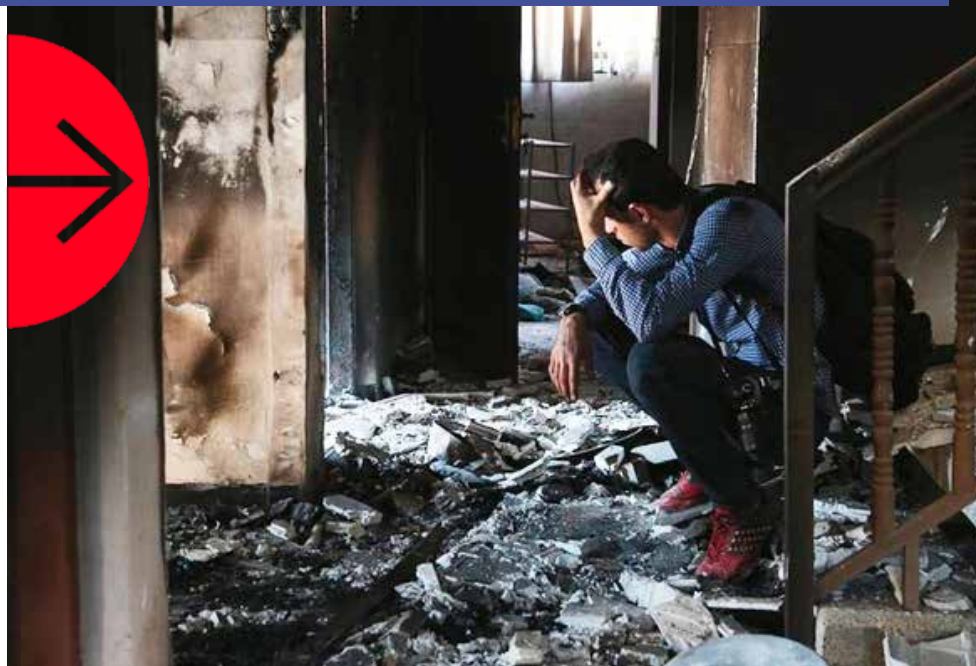
The papal visit is the thing we have longed for most of all here. It will be a great blessing. We have a great yearning to see him. What gives added importance to this visit is the so very vulnerable situation that we are suffering as Christians in Iraq. There are many reasons for this vulnerability, including the aftermath of what IS left behind, the enormous destruction which has led in such large measure to the emigration of the Christians. There are many problems weighing on us. But when he comes to visit us, he will give us new hope and confidence and some relief from this burden. In addition, there is the fact that the security situation in Iraq, and especially the political situation, is so unstable, so we are hoping that when the Pope does arrive they will guarantee his security in the way that they should.

What would you like to say to the Holy Father?

I would like to ask him to give me his blessing, to bless my ministry and the hard work of all the priests here, and also to bless all the people through his prayers. I would ask him to help all those in danger in this country, whether they are Christians or Muslims. And that he might strive to encourage the countries of the world to support this nation, which is truly in need.

What would you like to show him in Qaraqosh/ Baghdeda? What places should he visit?

I would love him to visit the Al-Tahira



Fadi Saqat (ACN Iraq) in a burnt house in Qaraqosh/ Baghdeda. Photographer: F. Essa. Copyright: Aid to the Church in Need.

church because it is a symbol and a rich cultural legacy of Baghdeda. This church is the mother, the home and the inheritance of every one of the inhabitants of Baghdeda. Our forefathers built this church, and we all feel we are a part of it. Of course, we would be happy for him to visit many different places – churches, monasteries and traditional homes – and also for him to be able to meet all the many people who are longing to see him.

Fadi Saqat, 27, coordinator of ACN's projects in the Niniveh Plains:

What does the visit mean to you?

The papal visit will lift up our spirits and morale more than anything else. All the eyes of the world will be on Baghdeda. And in this way, the world will know what happened to this city. The terrible destruction and the forcible ethnic cleansing. It will also be a good thing if afterwards, we get more support and help. This visit is really important to us, to those of us who are living here, especially after the massive ethnic cleansing and expulsion of so many of us. His visit means that we are not alone and that there are people who are praying for us. This will give us fresh hope and encourage us to persevere, here

on our own soil, and not leave it.

What would you like to say to the Holy Father?

If I get the opportunity to meet him, I would like to be able to thank him for his visit, which has made us very happy, and for his prayers. I would also like to thank him for all he has done to help us in recent times. I have not forgotten his great gesture of solidarity in auctioning the Lamborghini in order to use the money to help pay for the reconstruction of our homes on the Niniveh plains. I would also like to ask him to continue praying for us and for peace to return to Iraq.

What would you like to show him in Qaraqosh/ Baghdeda? What places should he visit?

I would like to show him our historic Al-Tahira church, and some photos of Baghdeda. I'd like him to be able to see how it was destroyed by IS and how the people here have worked so hard recently to rebuild it once more.

Currently, ACN has many ongoing projects for reconstruction work and pastoral support for the local churches of the various different Christian rites in Iraq.

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COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

Effective
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1. Covid-Safe Business

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

2. Maximum Attendance

- a. Attendance at Places of Worship is limited to one person per two square metres (excluding clergy and liturgical ministers) with 25 people permitted before the rule applies.
- b. Physical distancing is to be practiced. People from different households are to remain 1.5m apart.

3. Hygiene practices

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

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

- a. Name, phone number and/or email to be recorded.

- b. To be kept in a safe place (respecting privacy laws) for at least 28 days.

5. Eucharist

- a. Holy Communion in the hand only.
- b. Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.
- c. No touching at the sign of peace.
- d. No offertory procession.
- e. No collection plates are to be used. Collection points and electronic donations preferred.

6. Communion to Sick and Elderly Persons

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

7. Anointing of the Sick

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

8. Singing

- a. Choirs of up to 50 people are permitted indoors and are to practice social distancing (see Item 2b). There is no maximum cap on choirs outdoors.
- b. Congregational singing is permitted – wearing masks while singing is optional.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

90th birthday of volunteer

St Vincent de Paul volunteer, Vera Sergi recently celebrated her 90th birthday. Vera has devoted many years at St Vincent's Care and Support Centre in Griffith and is a member of the Sacred Heart Day Conference.



Vera (centre in blue shirt) with fellow volunteers at the Sacred Heart Day Conference.

If you are wishing to join their group of volunteers
phone 02 6964 3863 and leave a message.
Conference President, Yvonne Couper will return your call.



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- » Provide you with support and encouragement with social and community access

SUPPORT FOR WORK STRESS

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

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

SUPPORT WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIP, OR A SEPARATION?

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

SCHOOL WELLBEING PROGRAM

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

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

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

SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS AND CARERS?

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

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

Releasing refugees from detention

is a start but more needs to be done

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia welcomes the Federal Government’s recent decision to release 58 refugees (previously medically transferred to Australia) held indefinitely in detention centres and hotels in Melbourne.

National Council President, Claire Victory said these refugees had become pawns in a battle of political ideology in Australia, even though most had been confirmed as refugees by the governments of Nauru and Papua New Guinea prior to their medical transfer to Australia under the 2019 Medevac laws.

‘We call on the Morrison Government to release around 200 people who are still detained across Australia after their arrival for medical treatment,’ Ms Victory said.

‘The impact of almost eight years detention, and the uncertainty of indefinite detention on the men’s mental health has been well documented.

‘The men have been released on bridging visas, which leaves them vulnerable and largely unsupported in the community.

‘We call on the Australian Border Force to brief not-for-profit organisations, such as the Society, who will be providing support to those being released into the community.

‘The Australian Government should be working with not-for-profit organisations

to ensure that these people have access to a financial safety net and are not left destitute.

‘Not-for-profit organisations have to rely on much-needed donations to provide this support and donations have been stretched during the pandemic.

‘These people have been detained for so long – it is unreasonable to expect them to find a place to live, get a job and secure an income overnight.

‘The release of these people on a short-term visa which provides no path to safe and permanent resettlement is not good enough.

‘The Morrison Government must now release its plan for a permanent resettlement solution for all these people.

‘It is unclear why the Morrison Government continues to refuse to take up the long-standing offer for resettlement in New Zealand. There are also other people in Australia on these short-term visas who need help,’ Ms Victory said.

In our 2021 Federal Budget submission, the St Vincent de Paul Society has called on the Federal Government to:



Refugee Mostafa Azimitabar walks free after being released from the Park Hotel in Melbourne. Source: AAP

- extend the Special Benefit Payment to up to 515 people who have been or are likely to be moved from community detention to Final Departure Bridging Visas.
 - make SRSS payments based on need, such as for those awaiting assessments or a review of their claims for protection, including claims before the courts.
 - discontinue denial of SRSS payments to persons because they are studying or otherwise deemed eligible to work.
 - reinstate the 2014 eligibility criteria and fund the SRSS program at levels that existed prior to the 85 percent cut in funding since 2017-18.
 - extend JobSeeker to people on bridging visas currently ineligible for income support
 - remove penalties for Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) holders accessing Special Benefit in light of the pandemic and remove restrictions on accessing Special Benefit for Temporary Protection Visa or SHEV holders who are studying.
- The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.

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321 Urana Rd Lavington

Leeton Shop

42 Kurrajong Ave Leeton

Mulwala Shop

47 Melbourne St Mulwala

Narrandera Shop

181 East St Narrandera

Tumbarumba Shop

16 The Parade Tumbarumba

Turvey Park Shop

Turvey Tops Shopping Centre,
Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga Shop

15 Peter St Wagga Wagga

VOLUNTEER TODAY

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

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

Please phone 13 18 12 to find out more.

Palms Australia seeks Mission recruitment assistance

For 60 years Palms Australia has been recruiting, preparing, sending and supporting Catholics from all around Australia to fill overseas professional placements in response to requests from international community partners.

With COVID preventing the gatherings Palms would normally hold to facilitate recruitment for mission, they are instead asking for the assistance of our entire faith community to recruit the qualified and experienced Australians requested by partner organisations in low-income communities. These partners believe that the people Palms prepare and send for between one and three years provide the most effective and sustainable solutions to poverty.

Palms Executive Director Roger O'Halloran says:

"It is difficult to be precise, but it seems we need to be ready to meet partner request and begin sending again in the second half of this year, or early 2022."

Palms thoroughly prepares and supports those recruited for mutual development and therefore welcomes enquiries today to ensure an appropriately paced preparation.

The Palms website (www.palms.org.au) provides background to positions currently available.



Year 3 English Class at Klothor School.

"You can have a look on your own behalf, but please also let your friends, family and others know about the many and varied opportunities." pleads Mr O'Halloran.

It is anticipated that even more requests from partners will be added in coming months.

Mr O'Halloran also wants to highlight these reassurances:

- 2021 marks the 60th year of the Palms program;
- Living allowances and accommodation are provided in placement.
- For placements of two-three years return airfares and insurance are covered as well.
- All placement requests are scoped in-situ ensuring that those sent are well

integrated into appropriate roles.

- Palms' experienced staff provide personal and professional support for all transitions from enquiry through to placement and returning home.

If you would like to find out more you can enquire online at www.palms.org.au or call Palms on 02 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567



Palms Australia



Year 3 students at Klothor School singing English songs.

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Email: livestock@hfrancisandco.com.au
www.hfrancisandco.com.au

Holy Spirit School principal Matt Kean to complete 2021 Riverina Melanoma Ride

Lavington's Holy Spirit School principal Matt Kean has the firm belief that prevention is better than a cure when it comes to melanoma.

BY GEORGIA SMITH
The Daily Advertiser

That's why in October the cancer fighter will be riding over 1000 kilometres in eight days for the Riverina Melanoma Ride.

Starting in Albury, Mr Kean and his team will pass through Wagga, Leeton, West Wyalong, Lake Cargelligo, Griffith, Jerilderie and Yarrawonga in an effort to raise awareness and funds, with the proceeds donated going towards the Amie St Clair Melanoma Trust and Melanoma Institute Australia.

Mr Kean will hold presentations for schools and community groups before the ride to highlight the facts surrounding skin cancer prevention, having battled melanoma himself.

"I did the Melanoma March in 2019 and this was a way of doing something different," he said.

"At the end of the day my thought process is that prevention is better than a cure.

"I need technology and research to have a prolonged life, but kids don't if

they look after themselves. If we can talk to kids about prevention, then job done."

Mr Kean was diagnosed with stage three melanoma back in 2016, with it then spreading to the nodes in his groin.

In 2017 it appeared again in the nodes in his hip.

"I was given options of immunotherapy, radiation and chemo or to have the nodes removed," he said.

"Immunotherapy at that time was just a trial, which is the option I chose.

"I had an injection every three weeks and that's worked, I've had clear scans since."

He still continues to have scans every three to four months.

"It's one of those things my kids are conscious of," he said.

"It's a family journey, whether I like it or not."

The Riverina Melanoma Ride has already attracted support from some big names, with fellow melanoma fighter



Lavington's Holy Spirit School principal Matt Kean will be pedalling 1000 kilometres in October for the Riverina Melanoma Ride to raise awareness and funds. Picture: Mark Jesser

and Richmond premiership player Jack Riewoldt sending in a message of support.

Mr Kean is now in training for the grueling ride, which will see him pedal 145km on the longest day.

"We're not trying to break any speed records," he said.

"It's just about raising awareness."

The October ride aims to be a timely reminder as residents prepare to enjoy the summer sun.

Holy Spirit School has already

adapted their sun smart policy, with hats now additionally worn in terms two and three when the UV rating is over three.

To become a sponsor or to donate you can head to the Riverina Melanoma Ride 2021 website or Facebook page or visit Matt's mycause page at:

**[www.mycase.com.au/
page/240745/riverina-
melanoma-ride](http://www.mycase.com.au/page/240745/riverina-melanoma-ride)**

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 and 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

Training is provided.

Parishes urgently needing SRE volunteers:

Henty - Darlington Point and Colleambally
Berrigan and Mulwala



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St Peter's Primary, Coleambally

It was fantastic to see all our lovely students back on 29 January. We all had a great day despite the rain!



Henschke Primary, Wagga Wagga



On 1 February we welcomed back our students from Years 1-6 for the 2021 school year. Congratulations to all our students from Years 3-6 who commenced the year with our Swimming Carnival at the Oasis Aquatic Centre. Well done to our age champions Matilda Godde, Archer Nimmo, Ivy Woods, Jack Pope, Olivia Driscoll and Fletcher Gregurke. Congratulations also to Bishop House who won the trophy for overall points at the carnival.



Kildare Catholic College, Wagga Wagga

On 28 January we welcomed Year 7, 12 and a number of students new in Year 8-11. Their exciting 2021 learning journey has begun!



St Patrick's Primary, Griffith



Thank you Fr Grace, Miss Zanotto, our School Leaders and Social Justice Leaders for all you have done for your school and parish communities in 2020.





St Francis De Sales Regional College, Leeton

A very happy vibe was had on 18 December at morning tea to celebrate the release of HSC results and ATAR rankings. Year 12 students have again received excellent results with 27 band 6 scores and over 100 band 5 scores. It appears as though at least 6 students have achieved an ATAR over 90.

It's amazing what can be achieved in our College when students, staff and families collaborate around learning and well-being outcomes for young people. **Congratulations!!**

Remember Year 12, you are St Francis people forever. You are called to do good works. We wish you all a bright, happy and successful future. Stay safe.

St Patrick's Primary School, Holbrook

It was great to welcome the students back on 1 February. The grounds had a deep clean and were sparkling ready for the children to return.

What a great way to end the first day of the 2021 school year, by swimming!



Marian Catholic College, Griffith

We are pleased to announce that 2020 are MCC's best ever HSC results and best results in the entire Wagga Wagga diocese.

Congratulations to our students who achieved a record 31 band sixes and 94 band fives!!!

We are also proud to announce that six of our students scored an ATAR of over 90 with our dux Piri Karunapalan scoring an amazing 98.25!

Awesome results Year 12!

We wish to thank all students, teachers and parents for their contribution and support in 2020!



Marian Catholic College's Nathan Bortolin, Piriyanathan Karunapalan, and Marcus Sartor.
Photo by: Monty Jacka

St Anne's Primary, North Albury

The 2021 school year has kicked off for our staff. Many thanks to Fr Martin for leading us in a liturgy to affirm our vocation of teaching and blessing us for the journey ahead!



St Joseph's Primary, Narrandera

Congratulations to our 2021 School Leaders who were announced at our final assembly on 14 December along with the Christian Living Award recipients and other award winners. St Vincent de Paul were also presented with a donation for their Christmas Appeal.



World Day of the Sick 2021

February 11 is World Day of the Sick, an observation started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses.

The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes.

People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith organisations mark this day especially to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance.

Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s

a year before, in 1991, and it is considered that his own illness was impetus for his designation of the day.

Pope Benedict XVI also declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013. He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision.

To read a message from His Holiness Pope Francis about World Day of the Sick 2021 visit:
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco_20201220_giornata-malato.html

“You have but one teacher and you are all brothers” (Mt 23:8)



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

take action in relation to child safety, this translates into increased safety for children and young people. The Royal Commission was the longest most expensive Royal Commission in Australia history. Just think about that for a moment. The longest, most expensive, most extensive Royal Commission in Australia history ahead of all the other royal commissions, some 134 of them since Federation covering some major corruption, crime and national security issues which you would expect would have been bigger than issues like this. But to Australia’s shame this topic of child sex abuse has turned out to be the one that has required the greatest resourcing and commitment. It was Australians, in a whole variety of positions of trust and responsibility, as teachers, parents, staff, clergy, police and a range of other professions who heard, saw, and failed to act. Now it’s up to organisations, ours included to construct a governance system that reflects a similar sophistication in relation to child protection.

I am glad to see these Protocols are the result of considering an evolving addition of improvements gained through knowledge, experience and research to always respond better to the needs of those harmed. The addition of monitoring of the protocols to ensure refinement of ongoing improvements is

a pleasing development.

Yet, in the final analysis, the biggest challenge facing the Church and Australian society as a whole is to never become complacent. Never think ‘it couldn’t happen here’. Safeguarding children is an ongoing activity, a journey not a destination. We can never rest on our laurels and say, we have legislation now, we have policy therefore our children are safe. A child protection policy must never be a document that simply sits on a shelf. It needs to be enacted every day, in every decision and in every action. We need to make sure that safeguarding children is a continuous process and we must never approach it with a compliance ‘tick box’ mentality or a belief that it is in somebody else’s domain. It is every adult’s moral, ethical and legal responsibility to protect children. I hope all men and women in the church, in any role, embrace and support the protection of our innocent ones. Why would they not?

The National Response Protocol will be monitored regularly to allow for ongoing refinement and improvement. It will be sent to the Holy See for approval.

The National Response Protocol is available at:
www.catholic.org.au/nationalresponseprotocol



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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)
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 - Koorinal

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorinal
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm
Sunday - 8:00am and 10:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:45pm
Tuesday and Thursday - 7:00am
Saturday - 9:30am
Reconciliation
Saturday - 10:00am - 10:30am
Changes to Mass times will be on Chapel door.

Wagga Wagga - South Wagga

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

Wagga Wagga - West Wagga

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

Albury

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

Albury - North Albury

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

Albury - Lavington

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

Albury - Thurgoona

Immaculate Heart of Mary
Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9.30am, 5.30pm
Weekday Masses
Monday - 8.00am
Tuesday - 10.00am
Wednesday - 8.00am
Thursday - 7.00pm (Mass Novena and Benediction)
Friday - 10.00am
Confessions
Prior to Masses
Saturday - 5.30pm-5.55pm
Sunday - 9.00am-9:25am & 5.00pm-5.25pm
Thursday - 7.00pm following Novena
Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Berrigan

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

Coolamon

St Michael’s
Sunday - 7.30am and 9.00am
Confessions
Saturday - 4.45 - 5.15pm
Masses
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 7.30am
Thursday - 10.15am
Saturday - 9.00am
Marrar
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Confessions
1st Saturday - 5.30pm
Allawah Village
First Thursday of each month.
Mass at 9.15am

Corowa

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

Culcairn

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

Darlington Point

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

Finley

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

Ganmain

St. Brendan’s Ganmain
Sunday Mass
9:00am
Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday:
December-February 7:30am (Tues., Thurs.) & 5:30pm (Mon., Wed., Fri.)
March-November 5:30pm
Saturday: 8:00am (usually in the convent except 1st Sat. in the church).
Confessions
8.00-8.55am Sunday and 30 minutes before all Masses.
St. Patrick’s Matong
6:00pm Saturday
Confessions 30 min before Mass

Griffith

Sacred Heart Warrambool St, 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 St
Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm
Sunday - 9:30am
Weekday Masses
Monday, Tuesday, 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 St, 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 31

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 January and February:

3 January 1933	Fr Patrick Hanrahan
10 January 1938	Fr James Hennebry
23 January 1937	Fr James Power O'Rourke
24 January 1882	Fr Cornelius Twomey
26 January 1941	Fr Martin Vaughan
27 January 1938	Fr Patrick Reidy
30 January 1946	Fr Patrick Gahan
4 February 1932	Fr John Campbell
12 February 1926	Fr Thomas L Ryan
14 February 1907	Mgr Michael Slattery
14 February 1982	Fr Thomas Aloysius Desmond
19 February 1948	Fr John Kenneth Charles Suna
24 February 1968	Bishop Francis Augustin Henschke

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

Monthly laugh:



"Hey! Are you eating again *already*?"
"Oh yeah. I fast really fast!"

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Family reflections for: february

7th February - Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for?

Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:29-39. Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Job 7:1-4,6-7 Psalm 147:1-6
1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23 Mark 1:29-39*

14th February - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Today's Gospel invites us to think about the choices we make as individuals and as a family. Jesus was faced with a choice in today's Gospel. By choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus showed God's compassion for the sick and the outcast. The man knew that Jesus had a choice and that Jesus could reject his request. He may have expected that Jesus would not help him. The social taboos regarding leprosy certainly gave

him little on which to base his hope. In the person of the man with leprosy, we see an image of all those in need. The sick and the outcast of our world are watching us, to see if we as Christians will choose to extend ourselves to others in need of healing and compassion.

Gather with your family and talk about some of the choices you have made as a family. (where to go on vacation, what activities to do together, how to spend our evenings, and so on) How does your family go about making these decisions? What do your choices communicate to others about your family's values? In today's Gospel, Jesus was faced with a choice. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:40-45. In choosing to heal the man with leprosy, Jesus chose to show God's compassion and mercy. All our choices reflect our faith, and others are watching. Conclude in prayer together, asking God to help your family show compassion to others in your family decisions. Pray together today's Psalm, Psalm 32, or pray the Prayer for Vocations.

*Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 Psalm 32:1-2,5,11
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Mark 1:40-45*

21st February - First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B
The announcement that Jesus makes as he begins his preaching in today's Gospel is recalled on Ash Wednesday at the signing with ashes: "Repent and believe in the gospel." This is our challenge for Lent; indeed, it is the challenge of our entire life. During Lent, we are invited to strengthen and to renew the promises that we made at our Baptism, to reject Satan and sin so as to live as children of God. Through the grace of God that we received at Baptism, we follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and know that with Jesus' help, we will be victorious over sin.

As you gather as a family, talk about the importance of Baptism. At our Baptism, our sins were forgiven, and we

promised to live as children of God. As part of the Rite of Baptism, we rejected sin and Satan. Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:12-15. During Lent, we renew the promises of our Baptism, turning again from sin and promising to follow God. Light a candle, perhaps a candle used at one of your family member's Baptisms, and pray together the Act of Contrition.

*Genesis 9:8-15 Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15*

28th February - Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B
Every family has special moments that they remember and share again and again. In sharing these stories, the meaning and importance of these events develop and deepen over time. This is how it was with the disciples' remembrance of Jesus' Transfiguration. The full significance of what they had seen and experienced could only be understood after Jesus' death and Resurrection. As they told other believers about this event and recorded the story for us in the Bible, our understanding of what it means to call Jesus God's own Son has also deepened.

As you gather as a family, think about some special family memories that your family tells over and over again. Talk about why these memories are important to you. Recall that in the Bible we find many important memories about Jesus that have been recorded for us so that we can believe that Jesus is God's Son. Read today's Gospel, Mark 9:2-10. What do we learn about Jesus from this Gospel? (He fulfills the promises God made to Israel through the Law and the prophets. God glorified Jesus in his Resurrection. Jesus is God's Son.) Conclude in prayer together that as we continue to read the Bible, we will deepen our understanding of and our love for Jesus. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

*Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18 Psalm 116:10,15,16-17,18-19
Romans 8:31b-34 Mark 9:2-10*

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