



TOGETHER

In the Diocese of *Wagga Wagga*

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MARCH 2021

Pope Francis announces a year long reflection on family

As the fifth anniversary of his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* approaches, Pope Francis announced the Church will dedicate more than a year to focusing on the family.



The Pope commemorated the feast of the Holy Family on December 27 and said that it served as a reminder "of the example of evangelising with the family" as highlighted in his exhortation.

Beginning on March 19, Pope Francis said the year of reflection on *Amoris Laetitia* will be an opportunity "to focus more closely on the contents of the document".

"I invite everyone to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the year and that will be coordinated by the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life," he added. "Let us entrust this journey, with families all over the world, to the Holy Family of Nazareth, in particular to St Joseph, the devoted spouse and father."

According to the dicastery's website, the "Amoris Laetitia Family" year

"aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within parishes, dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations."

The year will include forums, symposiums, video projects and catechesis as well as providing resources for family spirituality, pastoral formation

and marriage preparation.

The commemoration will conclude on June 26, 2022, "on the occasion of the World Meeting of Families in Rome," the dicastery said.

Pope Francis had already declared a year of St Joseph, from December 8, 2020, to December 8 this year.

To find out more visit:
www.laityfamilylife.va




Amoris Laetitia Family
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Bishop's Voice

Bishop Mark Edwards OMI - Bishop of Wagga Wagga Diocese



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IN THE DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

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Dear sisters and brothers,

The first vaccinations against COVID-19 have been given in our diocese. Some of the most vulnerable people in our diocese have received their first dose of the vaccine. This is welcome news as they are significantly protected from the worst effects of the virus and as it is the first step to being able to lower and then remove our COVID-19 regulations across the nation and within the diocese.

The Catholic bishops of Australia have endorsed the offering of the vaccine to all who can safely receive it. I will be receiving

the vaccination when it is my turn to do so and encourage you to do the same.

I will also respect the decisions of individuals who, for medical, safety or moral reasons, are not ready to receive a vaccination at this time and, again, invite you to do the same.

There is likely to be little choice as to which vaccine will be available to individuals this year. I am assured that this means that we can receive any one of the three vaccines to be made available, without moral complicity in the processes of its development. If no

other vaccine is available, the morally serious objective of protecting lives makes accepting one of these vaccines permissible and is, I think, on balance a good thing to do. Those who still have ethical concerns can read the statement issued by the Vatican or speak to their priest.

While we rejoice in the vaccine becoming available to us, let us also look for opportunities to encourage our government to support its provision to poorer countries.

In Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate
Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI

Bishop Mark visits Mulwala

Lockdown Mulwala style: Bishop Mark Edwards visited St Brigid’s Church in Mulwala for an evening meal after Saturday night Mass on 13th February.



Prayer Intention for March - Pray with Pope Francis

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

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

<https://thepopevideo.org/>



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

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<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

Reconciliation has cleansed me dozens of times, but it has resurrected a significant relationship: the one with my father.

In 2011, I knew that I needed to reconcile with my dad – and ultimately with God — for being a distant son. Perhaps my desire was to reconnect with my father after my parents' divorce in 1995. Perhaps my desire was to yearn for a father-son relationship as I recently had a child of my own. Or perhaps my desire was to resolve that nagging feeling in my soul that I, too, had done something wrong. Whatever the reason, I was asking God for a “fresh start” after years of pain.

I carried decades of frustration, sadness, and burden with me. Sharing a story that desperately needed to be told, I exposed my guilt to my parish priest. I found a safe place in the confessional to share critical details; in fact, during our discussion, we discovered a solution as to how to best proceed. Years of turmoil were transformed into a new beginning for our relationship. What

began as an intimidating process ultimately developed into a lifetime of blessings.

Eventually, my dad and I reconciled. Instead of being limited by a deathbed conversation, we could process the past, and more importantly, our future. He now is a vital part of my life. I am proud to include him as a member of my family. My three children relish his company. I cannot wait to visit with him. Importantly, there is hope.

The sacrament of reconciliation has ignited a new relationship with my father. This spiritual healing happened because I involved God at the foundation. I can freely say that I now love my dad. This year we honour St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus. Not all of us had a good relationship with our own fathers. This year, let us pray to God the Father for reconciliation in families.

John Kindschuh

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines

The question of the use of vaccines, in general, is often at the center of controversy in the forum of public opinion. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released the following statement on 25 February.

In recent months, this Congregation has received several requests for guidance regarding the use of vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19, which, in the course of research and production, employed cell lines drawn from tissue obtained from two abortions that occurred in the last century. At the same time, diverse and sometimes conflicting pronouncements in the mass media by bishops, Catholic associations, and experts have raised questions about the morality of the use of these vaccines.

There is already an important pronouncement of the Pontifical Academy for Life on this issue, entitled “Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from aborted human fetuses” (5 June 2005). Further, this Congregation expressed itself on the matter with the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* (September 8, 2008, cf. nn. 34 and 35). In 2017, the Pontifical Academy for Life returned to the topic with a Note. These documents already offer some general directive criteria.

Since the first vaccines against Covid-19 are already available for distribution and administration in various countries, this Congregation desires to offer some indications for clarification of this matter. We do not intend to judge the safety and efficacy of these vaccines, although ethically relevant and necessary, as this evaluation is the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies. Here, our objective is only to consider the moral aspects of the use of the vaccines against Covid-19 that have been developed from cell lines derived from tissues obtained from two fetuses that were not spontaneously aborted.

1. As the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* states, in cases where cells from aborted fetuses are employed to create cell lines for use in scientific research, “there exist differing degrees of responsibility”[1] of cooperation in evil. For example, “in organizations where cell lines of illicit origin are being utilized, the responsibility of those who make the decision to use them is not the same as that of those who have no voice in such a decision”.[2]

2. In this sense, when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are

not available (e.g. in countries where vaccines without ethical problems are not made available to physicians and patients, or where their distribution is more difficult due to special storage and transport conditions, or when various types of vaccines are distributed in the same country but health authorities do not allow citizens to choose the vaccine with which to be inoculated) *it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.*

3. The fundamental reason for considering the use of these vaccines morally licit is that the kind of cooperation in evil (*passive material cooperation*) in the procured abortion from which these cell lines originate is, on the part of those making use of the resulting vaccines, *remote*. The moral duty to avoid such passive material cooperation is not obligatory if there is a grave danger, such as the otherwise uncontrollable spread of a serious pathological agent[3]--in this case, the pandemic spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes Covid-19. It must therefore be considered that, in such a case, all vaccinations recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience with *the certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not constitute formal cooperation with the abortion* from which the cells used in production of the vaccines derive. It should be emphasized, however, that the morally licit use of these types of vaccines, in the particular conditions that make it so, does not in itself constitute a legitimation, even indirect, of the practice of abortion, and necessarily assumes the opposition to this practice by those who make use of these vaccines.

4. In fact, the licit use of such vaccines does not and should not in any way imply that there is a moral endorsement of the use of cell lines proceeding from aborted fetuses.[4] Both pharmaceutical companies and governmental health agencies are therefore encouraged *to produce, approve, distribute and offer ethically acceptable vaccines that do not create problems of conscience* for either health care providers or the people to be vaccinated.



Photo: Reuters - Gareth Fuller

5. At the same time, practical reason makes evident that vaccination is not, as a rule, a moral obligation and that, therefore, it must be voluntary. In any case, from the ethical point of view, *the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good*. In the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic, the common good may recommend vaccination, especially to protect the weakest and most exposed. Those who, however, for reasons of conscience, refuse vaccines produced with cell lines from aborted fetuses, must do their utmost to avoid, by other prophylactic means and appropriate behavior, becoming vehicles for the transmission of the infectious agent. In particular, they must avoid any risk to the health of those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and who are the most vulnerable.

6. Finally, there is also a moral imperative for the pharmaceutical industry, governments and international organizations *to ensure that vaccines, which are effective and safe from a medical point of view, as well as ethically acceptable, are also accessible to the poorest countries in a manner that is not costly for them*. The lack of access to vaccines, otherwise, would become another sign of discrimination and injustice that condemns poor countries to continue living in health, economic and social poverty.[5]

The Sovereign Pontiff Francis, at the Audience granted to the undersigned Prefect of the Congregation for the

Doctrine of the Faith, on 17 December 2020, examined the present Note and ordered its publication.

Rome, from the Offices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on 21 December 2020, Liturgical Memorial of Saint Peter Canisius.

Luis F. Card. Ladaria, S.I.

Prefect

+ S.E. Mons. Giacomo Morandi

*Titular Archbishop of Cerveteri
Secretary*

References:

[1] Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction *Dignitas Personae* (8th December 2008), n. 35; AAS (100), 884.

[2] *Ibid*, 885.

[3] Cfr. Pontifical Academy for Life, “Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from aborted human foetuses”, 5th June 2005.

[4] Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruct. *Dignitas Personae*, n. 35: “When the illicit action is endorsed by the laws which regulate healthcare and scientific research, it is necessary to distance oneself from the evil aspects of that system in order not to give the impression of a certain toleration or tacit acceptance of actions which are gravely unjust. Any appearance of acceptance would in fact contribute to the growing indifference to, if not the approval of, such actions in certain medical and political circles”.

[5] Cfr. Francis, *Address to the members of the "Banco Farmaceutico" foundation*, 19 September 2020.

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2021

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem” (Mt 20:18) Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father’s will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (*Phil* 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the “living water” of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. *Mt* 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (*fasting*), concern and loving care for the poor (*almsgiving*), and childlike dialogue with the Father (*prayer*) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

1. Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.

In this Lenten season, *accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ* means, first of all, opening our hearts to God’s word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God’s gift and to recognize that, created in his

image and likeness, we find our fulfilment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbour, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others

and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 93).

Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to “make his dwelling” among us (cf. *Jn* 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet “full of grace and truth” (*Jn* 1:14): the Son of God our Saviour.

2. Hope as “living water” enabling us to continue our journey.

The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her “living water” (*Jn* 4:10). Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the paschal mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint. Jesus had already spoken of this hope when, in telling of his passion and death, he said that he would “be raised on the third day” (*Mt* 20:19). Jesus was speaking of the future opened up by the Father’s mercy. Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father’s forgiveness.

In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: “Be reconciled to God” (*2 Cor* 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God’s forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with “speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be “willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak



a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference” (ibid., 224).

Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. *Mt* 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is “making all things new” (cf. *Rev* 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross

and was raised by God on the third day, and always being “prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]” (*1 Pet* 3:15).

3. Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

“‘Social love’ makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 183).

Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such was the case with

the jar of meal and jug of oil of the widow of Zarephath, who offered a cake of bread to the prophet Elijah (cf. *1 Kings* 17:7-16); it was also the case with the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd (cf. *Mk* 6:30-44). Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord’s word to his Servant, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you” (*Is* 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.

“Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 187).

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Saviour, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. **May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.**

Year of Saint Joseph

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

REFLECTION - MARCH 2021

The astonishing life of St Joseph – Spouse of Mary and Father of Jesus

Robert Falzon reflects on how St Joseph may have responded to his astonishing call to be the foster-father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. What does it mean for fathers and husbands in today's world?

Joseph, son of Jacob, was born in Bethlehem and was a descendant of King David (Matthew 1). He lived in Nazareth in Galilee, where he worked as a craftsman/tradesman, often referred to as a carpenter. He was married to Mary, daughter of Joachim; he had been to the father of Mary and paid the "dower" with the promise of marriage, but had not taken her into his home yet, as was the custom.

Mary, a few months into her betrothal, rushed off to the high country in Judea just outside Jerusalem to visit her relative Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John. It was the first of several astonishing events.

The rumours started. Why had she gone during her time of waiting for Joseph to come for her? What had happened? Was something wrong? Mary returned about three months later and the life-changing news was brought to Joseph. His betrothed spouse was pregnant!

Can you imagine what he was going through and thinking?

"How could she do this? What could have happened? Why? Who? What will I do?"

He decided to divorce her quietly because he was unwilling to expose her to public disgrace and possible stoning (Matthew 1:19).

Then, in the midst of this drama, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him that the child was the Son of God! Conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Remarkably, he obeys God's messenger and takes Mary as his spouse, into his home. Doing this, Joseph completes the marriage, gives Mary his name and becomes the father of the child in her womb.

Before the birth of their child, Caesar Augustus called a census for the whole land. Joseph was obliged to take the very pregnant Mary with him and travel to Bethlehem in Judea to fulfil the requirements. A son was born and Joseph, his father, gave him the name Jesus, in accordance with the angel's instructions.

So, this son was born in a manger in Bethlehem because there was no room in the town, to Joseph and Mary in the line of David, in accordance with the ancient prophecies.

If the actions of Joseph and the birth of Jesus weren't astonishing enough, after the birth there were some amazing events. The shepherds came to visit, proclaiming the vision and the words of the angels. Then three rulers (Magi) visited this newborn "King" of the Jews.

Can you imagine what was going on in Joseph's mind and heart? Having walked for 10 days, with no sleep that night and all the strange happenings, he must have been confused, awestruck, amazed and, in his quiet moments, wondering what he had got himself into.

"I don't understand. Who is this woman? What about the mysterious son who is supposed to be the saviour of the world?! What were the shepherds going on about? Why did these rulers visit, prostrate themselves before my baby son and give us such incredible gifts?"

Soon after, Joseph took the child and mother to the temple in Jerusalem and presented their first-born son, in accordance with the law. They encountered Simeon and Anna, who again disturbed Joseph and Mary. "What a strange prophecy! Who is this son and what will he be?"

It is already evident that this family is not destined for a settled life and, as if this is not enough, an angel wakes Joseph up again and tells him to take his wife and baby and escape to Egypt because the most powerful man in the land wants to kill Jesus!

Anyone would be forgiven for thinking: "Come on! Give me a break here. I did not sign up for this!" This good man gets up, wakes his wife Mary, explains the drama and the necessary urgency. He loads up the family and heads off on a flight into Egypt – except it was a long walk of hundreds of kilometres and would have taken weeks.

As he walks, he wonders: "How will I provide and protect my precious family? How will I know which way to go? Did I really hear an angel, or was this just my lack of sleep? But it was the same angel that came earlier and told me to take Mary as my wife."

So many questions.

As they walk in silence, he prays. He repeats the psalms in rhythm with the steps. Possibly he remembers Isaiah 7:14: "The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Emmanuel (which means 'God is with us')."

This was no holiday journey and no ordinary life. The terrain was difficult and the danger imminent from bandits, brigands and wild animals. Joseph listens, discerns and makes decisions with the objective of guarding, protecting,

providing for this precious family. He listens to the voice for guidance.

Some years later, the angel appears again and tells him to pack up and go home to Nazareth. All is well; Herod is dead. He obeys like many times before. Another long journey is embarked on. They settle in Nazareth and then all is mostly quiet for nearly 30 years, except for one story about Jesus getting lost on a visit to Jerusalem. These are the "hidden" years. We know almost nothing of Joseph, Mary and Jesus during this time.

There is so much to be learned from St Joseph – so much we need right now in this present age! It is prophetic that Pope Francis calls us back to St Joseph with his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart).

Being a husband and father is possibly the hardest and greatest task I have been given. St Joseph teaches me, and us, much about these noble roles. Below are some of my reflections:

1. Listening - God speaks often and has much guidance for me. I/we need to find silence and stillness every day so I/we can hear from the sacred that resides in our soul. We call this prayer. I need this time with Jesus every day.
2. Obedience/Action - The need to understand/know is often an obstacle to faith. Doing what is right leads to righteousness. Do what you are told and take the appropriate action. Reject the pervading passivity of our culture and accept responsibility. Then do something. Say "yes, because you say so, I will."
3. Selflessness - Live for the other (wife/mother/child). Give your life away for the benefit of your spouse and family. Your life is for them. This is heroic love. This will change the world. Grow up.
4. Courage - Manage yourself; find ways to be calm in the chaos and stress of life. Avoid the strong pressure to reactivity, anger, uncharitable responses and immaturity. I can have faith in my fears, frailty and weakness. God is with me/us.
5. Humility - Be prepared to live through the small hidden years, the time when mostly what you do is serve, love, provide and protect. This is the martyrdom of waiting for God to act/speak. These years are the home of holiness.

Go on an astonishing journey with this great man.

St Joseph, Pray for us. AMEN.

Robert Falzon, a husband and father to four adult children, is an author, businessman and the founder of the national menALIVE ministry.



Instrumentum Laboris released for Plenary Council journey

The working document for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia provides a catalyst for the Church to renew the journey of prayer and discernment toward the first assembly in October, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says.



The document, known as an *instrumentum laboris*, draws heavily on the voices heard during the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases of the Plenary Council, but also from other key sources. It is entitled *Continuing the Journey*.

“This is an exciting step forward and we take it together, amidst a time of great change. More than 220,000 people participated in the first stages of Listening and Dialogue, and those voices can be heard clearly in the working document,” said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Plenary Council.

“As writers, we drew inspiration from Scripture, writings and teachings of the Church including the documents of the Second Vatican Council, encyclicals and papal exhortations, Australian bishops’ pastoral letters and more.

“The abundance of wisdom in the writings of our rich tradition, together with the papers of the Plenary Council discernment thus far, provided an incredible foundation for the content of this working document.”

Archbishop Costelloe said an *instrumentum laboris*, whether for the Plenary Council, for a Synod of Bishops in Rome or a local synod, “seeks to offer an account of what the People of God have expressed as an

invitation for ongoing discernment”.

A number of key themes emerge in the document, including:

- renewing a Christ-centred Church that heals wounds and warms hearts;
- strengthening practices of discernment and synodality;
- the call to co-responsibility in mission and governance;
- embedding a response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
- renewing and supporting the ordained ministry;
- promoting discipleship in parishes, families and young people;
- forming prayerful and Eucharistic communities that are eager to engage in society for the service of all;
- proclaiming the Gospel in a change of era;
- renewing the Church’s solidarity with First Australians and those on the margins of society;
- promoting an integral ecology of life for all persons, societies and our common home, the Earth.

Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins said a reflection guide has been developed to help people throughout the country engage with *Continuing the Journey*, maintaining the national focus for the Council.

“A document has the most value

Plenary Council
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

when it is brought to life through dialogue and response,” she said.

“In this particular time of changing norms in society and the emerging reality of post-COVID life, it is increasingly important to have as many faith communities, groups, agencies and individuals participate in this continued discernment as possible.

“Every single person is needed for God’s mission today.”

Archbishop Costelloe expressed his gratitude to the other members of the *instrumentum laboris* writing team: Daniel Ang, Trudy Dantis and Fr Kevin Lenehan.

“The Plenary Council has drawn upon the faith, the knowledge and the expertise of countless people during the journey so far,” he said.

“In Daniel, Trudy and Fr Kevin we were once again blessed with a range of experiences and insights that helped make the document what it became.”

Citing the working document,

Archbishop Costelloe says it “invites the whole Church, and in a special way the delegates to the Plenary Council, into a deeper discernment which can help us hear the voice of the Holy Spirit emerging from the multiplicity of voices”.

“Every part of this journey so far has been embedded in prayer and, similarly, I invite people to recognise the need to engage with the *instrumentum laboris* with an open heart, an open mind and a receptive spirit,” he said.

Archbishop Costelloe said *Continuing the Journey*, in addition to being a document of value in and of itself, will also help with the creation of the agenda for the Council’s assemblies.

Access the *instrumentum laboris* at the Plenary Council website: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Continuing the Journey

plenarycouncil.org.au/instrumentum-laboris

\$3.57 a day won't lift anyone out of poverty

A \$50 increase to the fortnightly Jobseeker payment and Youth Allowance will do nothing to lift Australians out of poverty and will perpetuate long-term disadvantage, Catholic Social Services Australia CEO Ursula Stephens says.

BY CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Dr Stephens said the decision is “deeply disappointing” to the large network of Catholic social service agencies, calling the Government’s announcement “mean-spirited and short-sighted”.

“We know that the increased payments provided through the Coronavirus Supplement improved the living standards of many families in Australia,” she said.

“CSSA joined the many advocates calling for a permanent and substantial increase in Jobseeker, which has not been increased in real terms for more than 20 years.

“An increase of \$3.57 a day represents a betrayal of trust to everyone who is trying to live with dignity on this payment.”

Dr Stephens said Catholic social

services worked through 2020 with both long-term unemployed people and those who were thrust into unemployment by COVID-19.

“The Coronavirus Supplement has been spent in local communities and supported local economies. We know the lived experience of these people and the need for wholesale reform to the social welfare system,” she explained.

CSSA has called for an investment in employment and training programs, as well as a job guarantee that will allow all Australians to contribute to the post COVID-19 recovery. It also supports initiatives that will improve people’s employability and capacity to work, including those with disability.

“The decision to contain the Jobseeker payment increase to just



Photograph: Alan Porritt/AAP

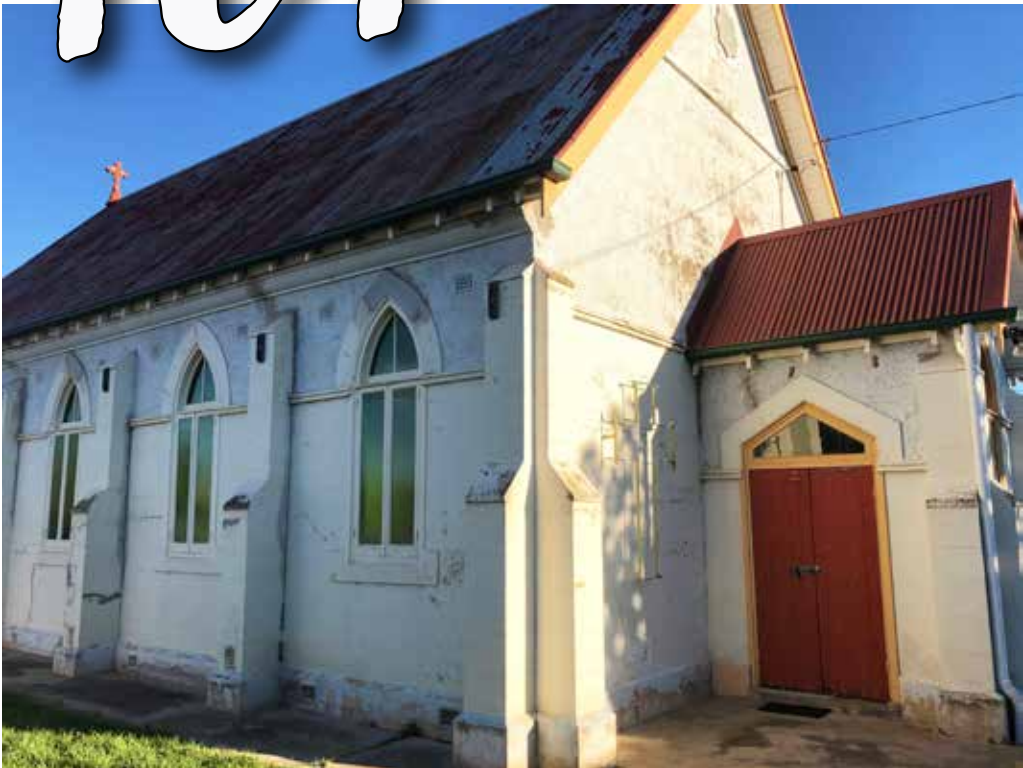
\$25 per week will do nothing to improve workplace participation and social inclusion. Instead, we anticipate an increase in demand for our services that are already stretched, especially in rural and regional communities,” Dr Stephens said.

“While the Jobseeker

announcement is – by the most generous interpretation – a small step in the right direction, it must only be the first. If not, we will be consigning generations of Australians to poverty and entrenched disadvantage.”

Walla Walla to celebrate 101st anniversary

Walla Walla were unable to celebrate their 100th anniversary on 17th October last year due to COVID-19 restrictions so plan to mark their 101st anniversary this year with a celebration.



Celebrating 200 years of Catholic Education



Catholic Education is celebrating 200 years in Australia, marking the bicentenary of the first Catholic school established in Parramatta in October 1820.

The first Catholic school in Australia was founded in October 1820 by Irish Catholic priest Fr John Therry and run by convict and lay person George Marley. The school, which Catholic historians believe was in Hunter Street, Parramatta, taught 31 students. By 1833, there were 10 Catholic schools in the colony.

Celebrating the legacy

Over 200 years, Catholic schools have grown to become the largest provider of schooling in Australia (outside government) with one in five school age students attending a Catholic school.

This represents some 768,000 students in 1,751 schools across the country and employing 98,000 teachers and staff.

Nearly 40 per cent of Catholic schools are located outside of metropolitan cities in regional, rural and remote communities.

The formal celebrations were due to be held from October 2020 to October 2021. However, due to pandemic restrictions, the celebrations will now be held during the 2021 school year.

The official launch of the celebrations will be held in the week commencing 22 – 26 February 2021 and will involve local state, territory and diocesan events.

A National Mass will also be celebrated in every state, territory and diocese on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians on 24 May 2021.

Additional events and activities will be added to the events calendar throughout the year.

National theme

A national theme, “Faith in the future” has been developed for the 200 years celebrations. The theme reflects the core purpose of Catholic

education to form students in their faith, and to provide an education that enables our graduates to make a meaningful contribution to the world. The theme reflects our commitment to build on the great work of those who have come before us and to provide a Catholic education for future generations of students in a world that is rapidly changing and poses new challenges for Catholic school communities. Yet, we have faith that we can face these challenges and continue to build on, and our strengthen, our mission of Catholic education.

About the logo

The Christian cross is the central element of the logo and represents the faith dimension of Catholic schools and our mission of service in Christ. The Southern Cross and outline of Australia represents the Great South Land of Australia. Dots are used as a key design element connecting to the traditional custodians of the land – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The colours – burnt red and yellow – represent the desert in the heart of the Australian outback, contrasting with the deep blue representing the Southern sky and ocean surrounding our continent.

National Catholic education Executive Director Jacinta Collins said the bicentennial celebrations recognise the enormous contribution of Catholic schools in Australia.

“Over 200 years Catholic schools have educated millions of Australian students,” Jacinta said.

“Australian Catholic schools have a long and proud tradition of delivering high-quality, faith-based education.

“The bicentenary is an opportunity to celebrate those who have served in Catholic education since its earliest days; the contribution of religious institutes, clergy and lay people in the foundation of schools in cities, rural and remote parts of Australia; and the continuity of this mission with the leaders, staff, families and the wider Church community today.

“We look forward with great hope and faith in the future of Catholic schools by continuing to respond to our mission of meeting the educational and spiritual needs of young people and our communities,” she said.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, chair of the Bishops Commission for Catholic Education said during the press conference which followed the virtual launch, that Catholic families, teachers and students should today be very proud of the 200 years of Catholic education.

“It is an extraordinary achievement and gives us great hope for the future, that we will continue to make this major contribution to the social capital of this country and to the individual development of every child that is entrusted to us,” Archbishop Anthony said.



Above: Old Parramatta Marist School Room, Victoria Road Parramatta. Circa early 1900s.

Below: Parramatta Marist today.



200 YEARS - FAITH IN THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA

Almighty and all-loving God,
with gratitude for the endeavours of Catholic education in the past,
with confidence in our Catholic pre-schools, schools and universities today,
and with faith in their continuing contribution in the future,
we celebrate 200 years of Catholic education in this Great South Land.

As our Heavenly Father,
we thank you for your providential care for your children in this land
in inspiring priests, religious and lay people
to found and staff our schools in ages past.
Through them the Good News of your Son was brought to the young
even in colonial times – and ever since.

As Christ the Teacher,
you grace the staff and leaders of Catholic education today.
As they build on the achievements of their predecessors
direct them in their present efforts
to ensure that every young Australian has the opportunity
for an excellent education and formation in faith.

As our Inspiring Spirit,
you lead us into the future.
In the century ahead grant those teaching and
learning in our schools,
those planning and leading,
and the families and community that entrust
their young people to us,
a love of learning and a willingness to be the
face of Christ
in the world of tomorrow.

Pour out your abundant blessings upon all involved in
the ministry of Catholic education. Amen.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross – pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Patron of Catholic
Education in Australia – pray for us.

Image copyright © Paul Newton 2008



Catholic Education
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

Faith in the future



Bishop Mark wearing his Catholic Education 200th birthday commemorative pin.

Holy Land Collection 2021

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land – the ‘ancient stones’ of our Christian heritage and the ‘living stones’ of our present and future Christians.

The friars minister across several nations in conjunction with the Latin Patriarchate and other jurisdictions including the Greco-Melkite, Coptic, Maronite, Syrian, Chaldean and Armenian churches.

It is vital that we all care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Islamic and Jewish population.

The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection is applied to these projects, programs and more:

Faith, Memory and Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy Places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their

spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been a dramatic loss of income due to the closure of the shrines and the lack of pilgrims. However, the maintenance and care of the shrines has had to continue as well as supporting the local people whom they employ.

Social and Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds hundreds of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy. Due to the Pandemic, there has had a significantly greater demand for assistance while at the same time, a dramatic loss of income.

Educational and Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land to be part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed



to young people studying to become priests or religious. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places discovering historical artifacts.

Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs, as well as guided tours for pilgrims attending the shrines and holy places. With the closure of churches and shrines and the loss of pilgrims due to the Pandemic, pastoral care has needed to continue but with fewer resources.

Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical co-operation.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection 2021 will continue to support the works of the Holy Land Custody through the generosity of the Australian Church.

To donate visit:

<http://holylandfranciscansaustralia.org/>

Henschke Primary School Lenten Liturgy

On Ash Wednesday the Henschke community gathered with Father Paddy and Father Anto to celebrate and mark the beginning of Lent.



2021 Harmony Week

Harmony Week is celebrated throughout Australia in a week-long celebration of cultural diversity from 15 - 21 March.

Harmony Week is a week to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, based on the successful integration of migrants into our community. It is an opportunity for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common.

Since 1999, more than 80,000 Harmony Week events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

Multiculturalism is in Australia's national interest. It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. An integrated multicultural Australia is an integral part of our nation's history and character.

Community groups have made Harmony Week their own by organising events according to their needs, interests and strengths.

Morning teas, fairs, concerts, school assemblies, sporting events and national costume days are among the different events that have been staged to showcase cultures, traditions and backgrounds.

Orange has been the Harmony Week colour since the first event was held in 1999.

Traditionally the colour orange relates to social communication, stimulating two-way conversations. It aids in the development of new ideas and frees the spirit of its limitations, giving us the freedom to be ourselves. At the same time it encourages self-respect and respect of others.

The key messages of Harmony Week are:

- Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.
- It is about celebrating the benefits of our multicultural society that has come about as the result of the successful integration of migrants into the Australian community.
- Let's come together with friends and family and through schools, workplaces and our wider communities to celebrate our diversity.
- Be proud of our strong and successful multicultural society. Sharing our cultural heritage is part of celebrating what it means to be Australian.
- Our shared Australian values of respect, equality and freedom go beyond our different cultures, and are what makes Australia such a great place to live.
- The message of respect and belonging goes beyond the week long celebration. It can be lived by each of us, every day.

If you'd like to get involved:



HARMONY WEEK

CELEBRATES HOW ALL
OF OUR DIFFERENCES
MAKE AUSTRALIA A
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

HARMONY.GOV.AU



- Join Harmony Week to celebrate the benefits and strength cultural diversity brings to our nation and Australian way of life
- Register your Harmony Week event. The Registration Form is available

from the first week in February to 21 March every year.

- Find out what's happening near you at: <https://www.harmony.gov.au/events/harmony-day-events>

Have you ever thought about teaching SRE?

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

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Catholic women invited to national consultation

Catholic women are being invited to participate in a national consultation with two bishops later this month and to mark their diaries for a national gathering in September.

The national consultation, which will take place on March 27 via Zoom, invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution to and vision for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Bishop Michael Morrissey, the Bishop Delegate for Women, said he is looking forward to hearing from Catholic women from across the country.

“The thoughts, the voices and the actions of women within the Catholic Church are absolutely central to our life and mission, and the national consultation invites a sharing and listening that will benefit the whole Church,” he said.

“This process is something new, embracing the changing technological landscape, and seeking to remove some of the obstacles like distance and access.

“All the bishops have women acting in senior roles within their dioceses; this conversation provides another forum for broader national conversation.”

The consultation is being organised by the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry, whose mandate includes the place and role of lay women and men in the Church.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, the chair of that Bishops Commission, will join Bishop Morrissey in participating in the online consultation.

Clara Geoghegan, the executive secretary of the Bishops Commission and the coordinator of the consultation, said women she had spoken with were supportive of the idea of a national conversation.

“Our Church has become increasingly comfortable with the notion of listening and dialogue, in part because of the Plenary

Council’s invitation to engage in that way,” she said.

“Women are looking forward to the opportunity to speak with the two bishops and with one another and, as invited by the great document *Gaudium et Spes*, to share their joys and their hopes, their griefs and their anxieties, for the Church in Australia.”

For more on the March 27 national consultation go to: <https://nce.catholic.org.au/catholicwomen>

While the discussions during this month’s consultation are expected to help shape proposals and strategies over several years, they will also inform the development of the agenda for the Catholic women’s event in September.

Bishop Morrissey said the Catholic Women’s Gathering will follow a format that was developed for the inaugural Catholic Men’s Gathering held last year.

“Indeed, the idea for the Catholic Men’s Gathering came off the back of the successful Catholic Women’s Colloquium, which was established many years ago,” he said.

“The Men’s Gathering moving from an in-person event to an online event, because of COVID-19, created opportunities for greater participation because registration and travel costs were eliminated or reduced.”

The format of pre-recorded video presentations that are played at hubs across the country, supplemented with local prayer and reflection, will be used for the Women’s Gathering.

The Women’s Gathering will be held on September 11. More information on the event will be published in the next issue.



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Consultation for Women



Catholic sector urges government to look at key areas in Aged Care Royal Commission Report

Catholic Health Australia is urging the Morrison Government to not let the once in a generation opportunity presented by the Royal Commission for lasting and meaningful reform pass it by.

BY CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA

CHA, which is the largest grouping of non-government aged care providers, said in its response to the Commission's final report the Government should concentrate its efforts on four key areas:

- Giving families choice and control over the type of care they need, including gradually removing the waiting list for home care packages and ending the rationing of services;
- Putting in place more staff and training and paying them properly;
- Increased disclosure and transparency that rates performance; and
- Providing timely access by older people in aged care to the services of the wider health system.

CHA CEO Pat Garcia acknowledged the hard but necessary work undertaken

by the Commission and said his members were looking forward to hearing the Government's response in full.

“Our members recognise that significant reform is needed to deliver an aged care system that really caters for the needs of older Australians and puts them at the very centre of what we do. They absolutely recognise that they have a role to play in helping and they stand ready to assist the government in the implementation.

“This is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver for our older Australians a future where they have the right information so that they are able to choose the care that best suits them and their needs.

“This a moment in time and the Morrison Government is uniquely placed to deliver major reforms that



Photo: Reuters - Gareth Fuller

will take some years to fully take effect but will deliver a compassionate and consumer-centric system for decades to come.”

“However, if we want high-quality aged care and more better trained and better paid staff looking after our older Australians then we have to pay for it. The federal Budget in May is a key starting point for the sector but we also need to recognise that it cannot be funded entirely by the Commonwealth alone.”

Mr Garcia urged people to sign a petition by the Australian Aged Care Collaboration (AACC) to put pressure on the Parliament to reform and properly fund the sector. The AACC is a group of six aged care peak bodies: CHA, Aged & Community Services Australia (ACSA), Anglicare Australia, Baptist Care Australia, Leading Age Services Australia (LASA) and UnitingCare

"This is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver for our older Australians a future where they have the right information so that they are able to choose the care that best suits them and their needs."

Pat Garcia
CEO Catholic Health Australia

Australia. Together, the AACC represents more than 1,000 organisations who deliver 70 per cent of aged care services to 1.3 million Australians, either in their own homes or in communal residential settings.



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Have a slavery-free Easter

The sweet, but sometimes-bitter truth about Easter Chocolate...

Chocolate is delicious and people around the world know it. Every Easter Australians spend millions of dollars buying hundreds of kilograms of chocolate to eat and give away.

Australians will purchase over \$200 million in chocolate this Easter. A 2018 report by IBISWorld found that Australia's chocolate spend had risen by \$26 million over the previous five years (up to 2018).

But some of this chocolate is tainted by slavery and comes at the cost of a child's health, education and sometimes his or her freedom. Much of our chocolate is made using cocoa beans harvested by children, often in the West African region. Many of these children are forced into labour. We can help change this.

Chocolate and Child Labour – A Snapshot

- A 2020 Macquarie University report, *Not so sweet: chocolate, slavery and complicit corporations*, found that, “More than two million children under the age of 15 years old work



Students from John XXIII College
at Mount Claremont in WA

in the cocoa industry in Ivory Coast and Ghana. Many are the children of farm labourers, but others are also sold to farms as bonded labourers from neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali”.

- A 2021 report by the International Labor Organisation (ILO) found that 152 million children (64 million girls and 88 million boys) are involved in child labour – that's almost one in 10 of all children worldwide.
- Almost half of child labour happens in Africa (72 million children).
- Many of the children harvesting cocoa beans work in hazardous conditions.
- COVID19 has made children even more vulnerable. School closures have aggravated the situation and many millions of children are working to contribute to the family income.

**Change is happening – join
in ACRATH's Slavery-free Easter
Chocolate Campaign**

The ILO found that in the last 20 years almost 100 million children have been removed from child labour, bringing numbers down from 246 million in 2000 to 152 million in 2021.

Name your change for 2021. Will you:

- Commit to buying only chocolate that is certified slavery-free.
- Join the Name your change for 2021 Zoom morning tea on Thursday 4 March 2021 from 10:30-11am.
- Tell at least five other people about slavery-free chocolate and encourage them to buy it too. They will discover how delicious it tastes.



- Display the ACRATH poster in your school, parish, workplace or home.
- Make a donation to support the work of ACRATH. Donations can be made online at <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/acrath>. Other methods of donating can be found here.
- Make any fundraising chocolate raffle for your school or workplace, only chocolate that is certified slavery-free. Consider giving the profits of your raffle to CARITAS, which works to ensure people are not forced into slavery and forced labour.

Follow the lead of John XXIII College at Mount Claremont in WA. They use every opportunity to spread the word about Slavery-free chocolate at Easter. There's a slavery-free chocolate raffle, posters around the college, newsletter notices and information offered at the college's open day. Read their story at <https://acrath.org.au/a-sweet-story-from-wa>.

Where to buy chocolate that is certified slavery-free

Slavery-free chocolate is chocolate that is certified. Look for chocolate with one of the four logos (pictured) on it –

Fairtrade, UTZ or Rainforest Alliance.

There are some slavery-free chocolates available in most large supermarkets and ALDI and Haighs have an extensive range of UTZ certified chocolates and even more leading up to Easter. Fairtrade Australia and New Zealand has a list of slavery-free certified chocolates. Find it at: <https://fairtradeanz.org/for-consumers/products/chocolate>

Be Slavery Free has an Easter Chocolate Shopping Guide with information on what chocolate is slavery-free. The 2021 version of this guide will be available mid-March.



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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.

Week 4: Arsad from Indonesia

Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet in his home, so he had to walk into the forest to the open defecation area, even at night or in the rain.

Around 17 percent of Indonesia's rural population practice open defecation, with many unaware that it contributes to spreading diseases. Arsad's family was often sick and open defecation caused neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, he took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He decided to fund the building of a toilet in his house and facilitated others in his neighbourhood to save up for toilets.

Now, Arsad and his family are healthier and have reduced their medical expenses. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. A community event, called 'Declaration of Open Defecation-Free' was even held to acknowledge their

achievements.

Improved hygiene practices helped Arsad's community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Caritas Australia, through Laz Harfa, also shared prevention measures and distributing soap and masks.

Arsad has inspired his neighbourhood to 'Be More'.

Watch Arsad's story at:

<https://youtu.be/2dqWclbMCF0>

"We help each other, the 'togetherness' is growing. Our solidarity had increased."

Arsad



Arsad with his family.



Arsad enjoying clean running water.

"Start by doing what is necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible" St Francis of Assisi

Week 5: Halima from Bangladesh

Halima is raising two children under seven in a refugee camp in Bangladesh, while caring for her mother who has a disability. Widowed at just 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in 2017, arriving at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through its partner, Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima out with a shelter and cooking equipment so that she could feed her family. She participated in hygiene and sanitation training and took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.

Halima's training became all the more invaluable as the COVID-19 pandemic struck - when safe hygiene and preventative measures suddenly became lifesaving.

Halima is proud that she is able to earn a small income, while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community. Her children are adapting to life in the camp and are now at school.

Halima aspired to 'Be More' for her family and for the community around her..

Watch Halima's story at:

<https://youtu.be/COco70m1Xxc>



"Now I can keep my children clean, educate them and cover expenses for their needs."

Halima



Above and below: Halima in her role as a community trainer.



Halima helps her daughter to wash her hands.



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*

"However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew" - Pope Francis

Week 6: An Australian icon

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion. The initiative has raised more than \$500 million since it began in 1965 – making it one of the nation’s longest running charity campaigns.



For many, Project Compassion’s iconic collection boxes have become a nostalgic part of their lives – a reminder around home, school, church and the community that it’s time to support Caritas Australia’s annual appeal.

Margaret Moriarty can’t remember a time without a Project Compassion box in her house during Lent. “Donating to poorer counties was very important

to my mother and father. My children have grown up with the same iconic boxes in our home and my grandchildren are continuing the tradition,” Margaret says.

Throughout five decades of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, Caritas Australia has worked alongside vulnerable communities with the generous support of Australians. Project Compassion has also helped with access to education, health services, agricultural training and through programs that reduce maternal and infant mortality.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local partnerships have helped Caritas Australia to respond quickly to minimise the spread of the coronavirus.

This year, Caritas Australia has presented five stories from people striving to ‘Be More’ – just a few stories amongst the millions of people who have been helped through Project Compassion.

We would like to thank generations of our supporters nationwide for their ongoing generosity, which allows us to move forward with lifesaving strategies to tackle new challenges.

Watch the story of an Australia icon at:
<https://youtu.be/qraK73QR-nM>

THIS LITTLE BOX MAKES CHANGE

"Donating to poorer counties was very important to my mother and father. My children have grown up with the iconic [Project Compassion] boxes in our home and my grandchildren are continuing the tradition." - Margaret Moriarty, Caritas Australia supporter

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 latest one:
The Legion to me is a family of prayer, leading its members, associates and contacts on a spiritual journey of faith in the Catholic tradition to the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We seek communion with Jesus of Nazareth through Mary, His Mother and our Heavenly Mother.

The Legion was founded on 7 September 1921, in Ireland at Dublin by Frank Duff (born 7 June 1899, died 7 November 1980).

From the official prayer for the Beatification of the Servant of God, Frank Duff:

“This is a lay apostolic organisation at the service of the Church, under ecclesiastical guidance. It’s twofold purpose is the spiritual development of its members and advancing the reign of Christ through Our Lady.”

I was blessed in 1997 to visit the Concilium in Dublin, seeing the setting for the first Legion Meeting, as well as the nearby building which was home to Frank Duff, with the bed in which he died, still as it was, and the pushbike upon which he rode around Ireland.

I first joined the Legion of Mary in Leeton during the 1950s and 60s, leaving to concentrate on farming, but kept up the Tessera Prayers and Rosary until re-joining in the 1990s.

We would like to invite all our Active and Auxiliary members to the Acies on Thursday, 25 March 2021 at 6:30pm at St Michael’s Cathedral. A light supper will be served afterwards in the Parish Centre to conclude the evening.

The Acies is our annual consecration to Our Lady. Acies is a Latin word meaning an army ranged in battle array and is appropriate to a

ceremony in which the legionaries as a body assemble to renew their fealty to Mary, Queen of the Legion, and from her to receive strength and blessing for yet another year’s battle with the forces of evil. Moreover, the word is in effective contrast with praesidium, which contemplates the Legion, no longer drawn up in united array but split up into its various sections each engaged in its own particular sphere of duty.

The Acies is the great central annual function of the Legion, so that it is necessary to stress the importance of attendance on the part of every member. The essential idea of the Legion upon which all else is built, is that of working in union with and in dependence on Mary, its Queen. The Acies is the solemn expression of that union and dependence, the renewal – individual and collective – of the legionary declaration of fealty. Hence it is manifest that any legionaries who can attend, do!

On the day fixed for the ceremony, the legionaries assemble. At a convenient spot is placed a statue of the Immaculate Conception, suitably decorated with flowers and candles. In front of the statue will stand a large-size replica of the Legion vexillum. The proceedings commence with a hymn, followed by the opening prayers of the Legion including the Rosary. An address by a priest on the significance of the consecration to Our Lady follows. Then the procession towards the statue begins. The Spiritual Directors go first in single file. Then the legionaries, also singly. On reaching the vexillum, each one pauses; then, placing the hand upon the staff of the vexillum, he repeats vocally, as an individual act of consecration, the following words: “I am all yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is yours.” This done, the vexillum is relinquished, the legionary bows slightly and passes on. It will help if an organ be played

during the procession of the legionaries to and from the statue. The special characteristic of the Acies should be its order and dignity. When all legionaries have resumed their places, an act of consecration to Our Lady is said aloud by the priest on behalf of all present. Following this, the Catena is recited, all present standing. Then follows Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; after which the concluding prayers of the Legion are recited, a hymn is sung, and the Acies terminates.

“Mary is an object of terror to the powers of hell. She is ‘terrible as an army set in battle array’ (Song 6:10), for, like a wise Commander, she well knows how to dispose her power, her mercy, and her prayers for the confusion of the



enemy and for the benefit of her servants.” (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

* <https://frqg1xsjfpdcdn7.xyz/dl2.php?id=15650415&h=e522ecf5d1110fad70c5dc60140836eb&u=cache&ext=pdf&n=Legion%20handbook%20pdf%20-%20legion%20of%20mary> - Pages 173-175

Below is a list of 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 Ark of the Covenant	St Mary’s, The Rock	Mon, 7pm	Fr Gabriel Murray
Our Lady Gate of Heaven	St Joseph’s, Leeton	Tue, 5pm	Fr Anthony Dunne
Our Lady Help of Christians	St Brendan’s, Ganmain	Wed, 2pm	Fr Justin Darlow
Our Lady Star of the Sea (Juniors)	St Michael’s Cathedral, Wagga Wagga	Wed, 3:45pm	Fr Reece Beltrame
Our Lady of Fatima	Holy Trinity, West Wagga Wagga	Wed, 7pm	TBA
Our Lady Queen of Angels	Sacred Heart, Griffith	Thu, 3:30pm	Fr Jomer Calma
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 of Cana	St Mel’s, Narrandera	Thu, 6pm	Fr Bradley Rafter
Our Lady Spouse of the Holy Spirit	Our Lady of Fatima, South Wagga	Fri, 1:30pm	TBA

* *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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An ocean of problems or a puddle of possibility?

I choose the puddle and that’s how I stay sane in a world full of challenges. I’m hoping you might find this way of thinking helpful too.

BY BEN HOLT

Environmental Education/Promotions Officer

Hearing about climate change, the extinction crisis or running out of natural resources is enough to overwhelm even the most stoic of characters, or at least make them stick their head in the sand.

I choose to look within my own sphere of influence to deal with environmental challenges and boy does it make a big difference. I am proud of what I do, even in the face of others not agreeing or perhaps more simply, not understanding. I try not to beat myself up too much when I’m not perfect, but I hook in where I can.

My daily puddle of possibility is made up of the following things:

1. Being open to conversations about environmental challenges, and not shying away from sharing my thoughts, even if others don’t share my opinion.
2. Chucking stuff in the organic tidy top bin at home. But I don’t beat myself up about putting a bit in the red bin when the tidy top bin is being cleaned out once a week.
3. Trying to avoid food wastage. Buying appropriately sized perishable goods, so I do not end up with half a jar left when the use by date pops up (hint: don’t go overboard and eat things after the use by date – as I recently learned with a tub of sauerkraut).
4. My choice of vocation: I have chosen to be a teacher – whether working in a not-for-profit NGO or in a high school, I am working to make the world a better and more beautiful place.
5. Use electricity at home that is provided by a renewable provider

- (check greenelectricityguide.org.au)
6. Eat vegetarian where practical.
 7. Tend to my vegie patch. This also has a second, more selfish aspect, of just watching my garden not only grow, but thrive. It’s also great knowing that I have used as much 2nd hand, repaired and borrowed goods as I can to create and look after it. Try to avoid single use plastics at work. Just wash up when you’re done with it.
 8. Turn the computer off at the end of the day, instead of leaving it on standby.
 9. Recycling where I can.
 10. Try to have 4 min (and under) showers where possible. I’m not great with this one, but if it happens half the time, it’s better than not doing it at all.
 11. I use products produced by ethical companies. I use the “Shop Ethical” app at the supermarket to help me buy from companies with environmentally friendly practices and I avoid brands with a bad track record.
 12. I try to deep water the lawn with a regular circular sprinkler for 30 mins, twice a week, rather than do a shorter watering session each day of the week. I think I have cut back on lawn water usage by 50% compared to last season with this method.

There is a whole plethora of options available for people to live environmentally friendly lives and these are just a few on offer.

However, the main point of this article is not to lay out a set of options for you, it is to perhaps put forward a way of thinking that can help you feel proud and proactive, as opposed to overwhelmed. As Environmental Citizen of Wagga Wagga 2020, I can assure you it is not your job to single handedly solve climate change or plastics in the ocean. Your job is to acknowledge your own feelings of discomfort about our planetary challenges and find out what works for you or your family as a response you feel comfortable with. **This will in turn encourage those around you to do the same.**




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.



ACN Australia raises \$250,000 in National Appeal for Lebanon

 ACN Australia is pleased to announce that it has raised just over \$250,000 to help Christians in Lebanon.

This was the result of ACN Australia's Emergency Appeal for Lebanon after ACN International announced that it would provide \$8 million towards the rebuilding of churches, convents and church facilities in Lebanon.

Bernard Toutounji, the National Director of ACN Australia, recently met with Bishop Robert Rabbat, the Eparch of the Melkite Eparchy of Australia and New Zealand and Bishop Antoine Tarabay, the Maronite Bishop of Australia who both expressed their gratitude to ACN and all who have supported the projects in Lebanon.

Bishop Rabbat made the following statement to ACN: "After the disaster that struck central Beirut on 4 August 2020, there was an immediate and universal response to the call for help not only by the Lebanese Diaspora but from many governments and national communities. Aid to the Church in Need has been amongst those that have offered generous and much appreciated support. As St Basil the Great said in the 4th century, "A tree is known by its fruit, people by their deeds. A good deed is never lost; they who sow courtesy reap friendship, and they who plant kindness gather love."

Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay, also expressed his gratitude to ACN, "I wish to thank Aid to the Church in Need Australia (ACN) for the campaign to aid Lebanon, and particularly Beirut, after the explosion. I also thank every individual or organisation which supported and donated to this appeal, aware that times have been hard for all people around the world."

Bishop Tarabay also reflected on his recent trip to Lebanon in October 2020 which he explained was very different from past trips. "The joy and hope I always felt amongst the Lebanese people was replaced by a feeling of despair and a lack of hope that the situation will not change anytime soon. The impact of the socio-economic crisis, the repercussions of the explosion at the port of Beirut, the stalemate situation of the political life and the health crisis caused by COVID-19 have had catastrophic effects on Lebanon and its people, who are quickly falling below the poverty line. The only active organisations on the ground are NGOs and Church organisations, such as ACN, to which we owe all our gratitude. These organisations are doing their best but the need is immense. Lebanon needs the support and attention of the international community.



Otherwise, its existence and demographics will change in an irreversible way in a very short period of time, posing a real threat to the presence of Christians in the Middle East."

ACN exists to provide hope and ensure that the flame of faith is never extinguished. For the Christian people, their churches are not just buildings but tangible extensions of the living Church – the people of God. The reconstruction projects that ACN will be funding in Beirut include Saint Saviour Melkite Catholic Church, Saint George Maronite Catholic Cathedral and the Sisters of the Rosary Hospital and Residence.

ACN thanks everyone for their generous support and prayers for Lebanon and continues to welcome any further support for this work. www.aidtochurch.org/Lebanon

Keeping the Faith alive



When you hear the word 'charity' what comes to mind? Perhaps it is feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and sheltering the homeless. These are vital **material needs** and the Catholic Church has carried them out since her inception.

But is that it? Is the Church only here to fill stomachs and tend to wounds? Actually, even if the Church could eradicate all poverty and disease for all time that would not be her greatest gift to the world. The Church's greatest gift to the world is Jesus Christ. The Church exists to primarily sustain the **spiritual needs** of its people.

faith where the faithful are oppressed and persecuted.

We support the Church where the Church cannot support herself. We form priests, fund poor nuns, build churches, provide pastoral transport, train catechists and distribute Catholic books and media.



In short we offer **faith, hope and love** to our brothers and sisters who cry out to us for Jesus.

Each year we support more than 5000 projects in 140 countries. We need people who will help us to carry the light of faith into those places where it is at risk of going out. Will you help us to keep the faith alive?



As a sign of our thanks, make an offering and opt to receive a set of rosary beads blessed by Pope Francis.

 Aid to the Church in Need
ACN A U S T R A L I A



Scan the code to watch a video on ACN's mission and to make an offering online.

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My personal details: (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

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☐ Yes, please send me the blessed rosary beads.



Herein lies the uniqueness of **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**. We are the only international Catholic charity focused on the spiritual and pastoral needs of suffering Christians. Our mission is to nurture the

Send the completed form to **Aid to the Church in Need** PO Box 335 PENRITH NSW 2751, call **1800 101 201**, or arrange your offering online at www.aidtochurch.org/together

COVID-19 Diocesan Protocols

Effective
Tuesday 9th February 2021

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 entry time to be recorded and kept securely (respecting privacy laws) for at least 28 days.
- b. Any paper-based records must

be entered into electronic format (spreadsheet/database) within 12 hours.

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. Indoors: Congregational singing is NOT permitted indoors. Choirs of up to 50 people are permitted indoors and are to practice social distancing (see Item 2b).
- b. Outdoors: Congregational singing is permitted outdoors with – anyone over 12 years of age to wear masks. There is no maximum cap on choirs outdoors.

Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

A **Worldwide Marriage Enrichment Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life at the Carmelite Retreat Centre, Varroville near Campbelltown.

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

Weekend date:
16th to 18th April 2021 at
Mt Carmel Retreat Centre
Varroville NSW

Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au
or contact Christine & Terry Mahony
on 0490 774 419 or
nswbookings@wwme.org.au



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

Thank you for your support of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Movement.
In the love of Our Lord,
our sincere thanks,
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Tracey and Richard Kaldausan
- Unit Coordinators and Ecclesial team
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Ash Wednesday Mass



Fr Grace and students from St Patrick's Primary School, Griffith held an Ash Wednesday School Mass and liturgy.

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International Women’s Day

Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World

The National Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia stands with the international community as we celebrate the achievements of women everywhere on International Women’s Day.

National President, Claire Victory said this year especially, in the face of the challenges encountered during COVID-19 and the disturbing revelations about the treatment of women in our national parliamentary workplace, we must uphold the dignity of every woman.

‘We acknowledge their achievements and their struggles, and we continue to

advocate for social and broader public policy which enhances the lives of all women, especially those experiencing inequality, discrimination or disadvantage on many fronts, by virtue of their race, religion, sexual or gender identity or socio-economic status,’ Ms Victory said.

‘We join with the International Women’s Development Agency to celebrate the women who came before us, those who stand beside us now and those who will come after.

‘The Society’s good works are founded on the lives of those who compassionately served others.

‘Our *good works* are built on a history of extraordinary people including many, many women, committed to the intrinsic dignity of every human being.

‘Women in particular, know that investing in people who are experiencing disadvantage and supporting them to access safe, secure and affordable housing, health services and education enables fuller participation in community and economic life.

‘Sr Rosalie Rendu was one of those women. She has been an inspiration for generations. She was a significant voice of influence for young university students in the 1830s and in her life-time

she provided a wonderful and powerful example of humility, compassion, diligence and wise counsel. These values led her to do incredible work with people suffering in the depths of poverty.

‘During her time in the District where she worked for over 50 years Rosalie was a nurse, a justice of the peace, a catechist for the street children, and even a peacemaker between revolutionaries. She opened a free clinic, a pharmacy, a school, an orphanage, a childcare centre, a home for the elderly and a youth club for young workers. She was a counsellor and advisor to many.

‘And today we continue that tradition. A significant proportion of our members, volunteers and staff nationally are women.

‘I honour them and their contributions nationally and in their local communities.

‘Women participate at all levels in our local conferences, on our state and national boards, in our programs and managing and contributing to our vast network of shops which raise essential funds and provide a doorway to our many services.

‘On this day, we celebrate the lives of all women,’ Ms Victory said.

International Women’s Day 2019 march in Dili, Timor-Leste. Photo credit: Harjono Djoyobisono





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

VOLUNTEER TODAY



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

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

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

St Michael's Primary, Coolamon



St Michael's Primary have been busy training for their Fun Run and Cross Country. Everyone put in a great effort.



Mater Dei Primary, Wagga



Mater Dei Primary's Year 6 leaders had such a great time and many adventures at their camp in mid February.



St Joseph's Primary, Wagga



This term in Visual Arts, Kindergarten are learning about the Elements of Art'. This week they used paint, pencils, paper shapes, play dough, crayons and computers to make artworks with shapes.



St Joseph's Primary School, Jerilderie

St Joseph's Primary participated in Clean Up Australia Day on 7 March.



Sacred Heart Primary, Wagga Wagga

Year 5 doing some planting in their Kitchen Garden Program. A huge thank you to Chaston Street Nursery who kindly donated some plants.



St Joseph's Primary School, Leeton

Year 4 hosted a beautiful Mass on 5 March. Thank you to the fantastic readers for their preparation and reverence.



Holy Spirit School, Lavington

The student leaders from Xavier High School had the opportunity to work with the Year 1's in the library and the Kinders. We are not sure who enjoyed it more the older or the younger students.



Holy Trinity Primary, West Wagga

Year 6 students were busy investigating and exploring at the Science and Engineering Fair on March 4.



St Joseph's Primary, Finley

St Joseph's students had an action packed end of year fun fest. Thanks to Mrs Mason and Ryan for the use of the water slide and obstacle course.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Wagga Wagga

All schools enrolling now

KIDS corner

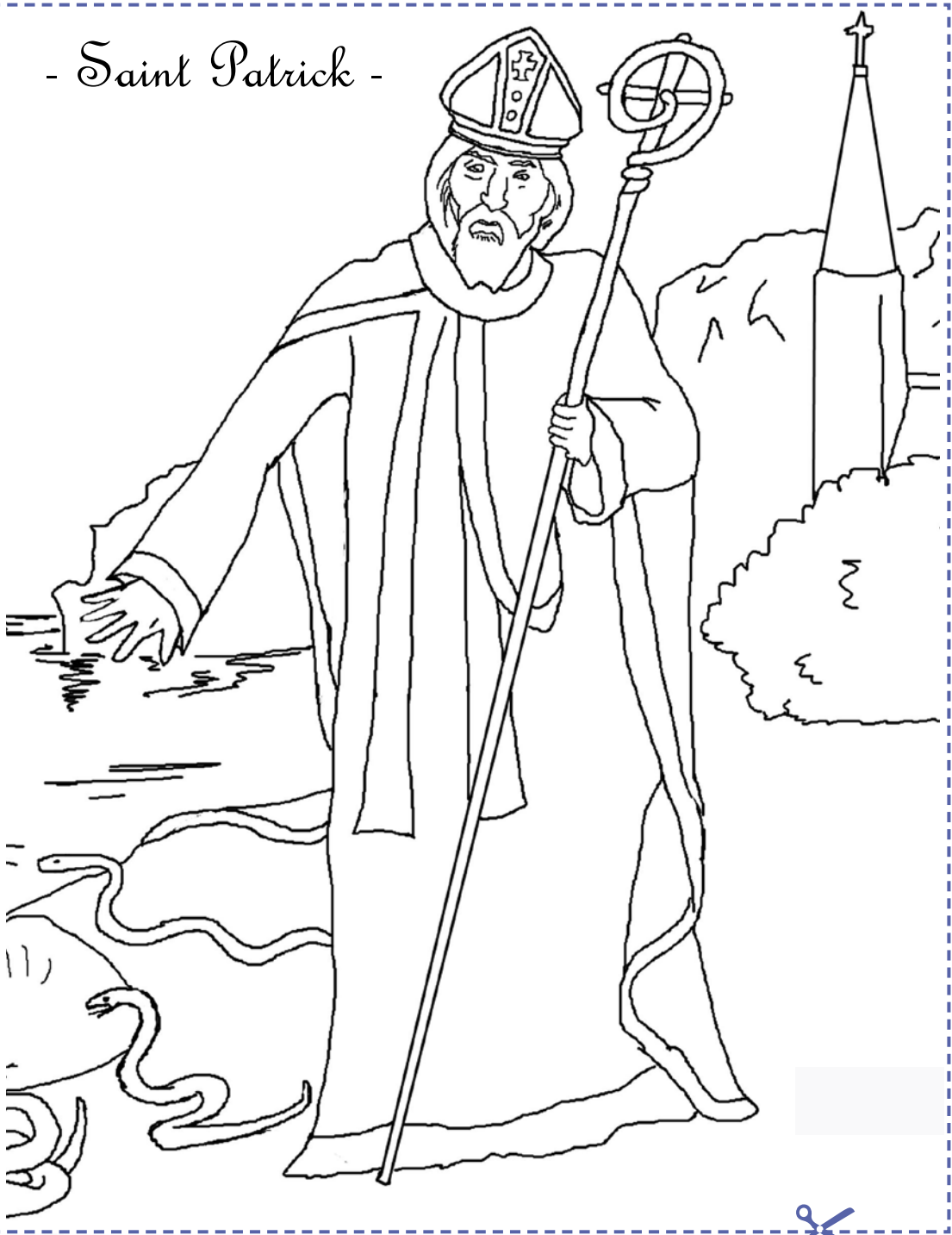
SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

One of the world's most popular saints. Enslaved as a young teen by pagans and Druids, he turned to God while in captivity. Escaping at age 20, he returned to his family and began studying for the priesthood. He preached throughout Ireland converting many for 40 years. He died at Saul, site of the first church he built.

Sheppard

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Science... Mentos Geyser



This activity is definitely best done outside as it will create a world of mess, but loads of FUN!

You'll need:

- Roll of Mentos
- 2 litre bottle of soda
- Wide open space



Instructions:

- First, open the bottle of soda.
- Place the bottle on flat ground so that it will not tip.
- Unwrap the whole roll of Mentos.
- The goal is to drop all of the Mentos into the bottle of soda at the same time (which is harder than you think).
- One easy way is to roll a piece of sturdy paper into a tube just big enough to hold the loose Mentos - make sure it can fit through the top of the bottle.
- Have everyone stand back and then quickly drop all of the Mentos into the bottle at the same time and RUN!
- The soda will erupt straight up in the air and your children will forever think you're cool!
- You can do this as many times as you're willing to spray down the area that is drenched.

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

Together Editor
PO Box 473
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

We'd love to hear from you!



MARCH SAINTS & FEAST DAYS

Word Search

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

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



St. Katharine Drexel

St. Casimir

St. Perpetua

St. Felicity

St. John of God

St. Patrick

St. Joseph

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

The **Annunciation** of the Lord

Vultus Christi Pilgrimage Day

A pilgrimage from Thurgoona to St Patrick's Church in Albury will be held on Saturday 20th March 2021.

This day is the Vigil of Passion Sunday when the Vatican's most important relics of the Church are venerated in St Peter's Basilica, the most famous being the 'Holy Face' or 'Veronica's Veil'.

A true effigy of the 'Sacri Vultus' relic will be on display at St Patrick's Church, having itself touched the Veil.

We walk from Thurgoona to Albury followed by Holy Mass, lunch and a Holy Hour at St Patrick's.

Lunch is \$5 per adult or \$20 per family. There will be paella in the St Patrick's garden. Childminding is available in St Patrick's hall for the Holy Hour.

Registration prior to the day is essential at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/BPBGZ>



Please download
'His Holy Face' app for
access to prayers on the day.

Start:
8:00am at Immaculate Heart
Of Mary Catholic Church
20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona

Finish:
2:30pm at St Patrick's
Catholic Church
315 Smollett St, Albury

Contact Details:
holyfacedevotionalbury@gmail.com

Who is Centacare?

At **Centacare** we are passionate about supporting all people in our community. We belong to the **Wagga Wagga Albury, Griffith, Mulwala and surrounding communities** We believe in the wellbeing for all.

HAVE YOU RECENTLY SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA?

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

PARENTING ORDERS PROGRAM (POP)

Our Parenting Orders Program (POP) is child-focused and helps parents to manage disputes and increase cooperation and communication for separated families

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We can offer your workplace our Employment Assistance Program (EAP) which offers short term counselling support and debriefing for staff.

For tailored business packages contact our office

LET US ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR NDIS PLAN

Your NDIS coordinator will work with you to provide supports and link you to other providers, build your capacity to self-manage, and give encouragement.

Your NDIS core support worker can assist you to engage with your community, build your self-reliance and support with your daily living skills

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

Speak confidentially with one of our counsellors who can help you improve your wellbeing and discover your potential

COUNSELLING

We offer individual, couples, or family counselling to help support you to strengthen and improve your relationships.

Individual working one on one in a safe and confidential environment

Couples helps two people resolve conflict and improve relationship satisfaction

Families learn new ways of relating to each other, resolve conflicts, and open lines of communication between all family members

SCHOOL COUNSELLING

Our School Wellbeing Practitioners work within Pre-schools, Primary and High Schools with students, families and staff to help guide student academic, behavioral and social – emotional growth.

Call if you would like to discuss this further

FAMILY AND PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We offer a wide range of parenting and education groups that focus on building skills, strategies and knowledge so you can enjoy positive relationships. These programs can be run individually or in a group

MEDIATION

We offer mediation services to assist in resolving disputes related to separation and divorce, children and parenting plans.

Call and find out how our mediator can assist you

And more...

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Holy Spirit Parish Annual Bush Dance

With the GMO Bush Band

Date: Saturday 17 April, from 7 pm.

Where: Holy Spirit Parish Hall, Mutsch Street, Lavington

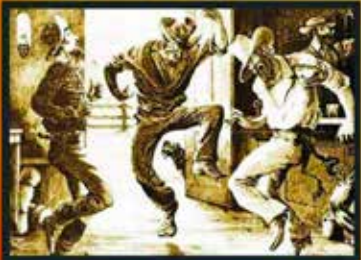
What: Bush-dancing, games, prizes, etc.

BYO: Supper, drinks; coffee/tea provided.

Entry: \$10 per person, or \$25 per family.

More info: Phone (02) 6025 1784

Tickets available at the door.



All proceeds go to
Women's Life Centre
(Lavington)



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 - 5:00pm
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 - Koorungal

Sacred Heart
Lake Albert Road, Koorungal
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
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 27

Tumbarumba

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


Urana

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

Yenda - Yoogali - Hanwood


Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii
17 Edon Street, Yoogali
Sunday - 9:30am
St Anthony's - Hanwood
Saturday Vigil - 5.00pm
Sunday - 8.00am
St Therese's - Yenda
Saturday Vigil - 6:30pm
Weekday Masses
Tuesday - 5:30pm - Yoogali
Tuesday - 8.00am - Hanwood
Thursday - 5.00pm - Yenda
Saturday - 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 March:

1 March 1982	Fr Richard Walter O'Donovan
4 March 1989	Mgr John Desmond Lane
6 March 1996	Fr Edward (Tony) Fitzgerald
7 March 2001	Fr Peter O'Leary
17 March 1949	Mgr William Slattery



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

Monthly laugh:



"I'm giving up my New Year's resolutions for lent."

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Family reflections for: March

7th March - Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B
Today's Gospel invites us to reflect upon our worship of God. For Jesus and his Jewish contemporaries, the Temple was an important, holy place where they gathered to worship God. The Christian understanding of worship was transformed in light of Jesus' Resurrection. In the Christian understanding, God is worshiped in a person, the person of Jesus Christ. As we read in today's Gospel, Jesus is himself the Temple that will be destroyed, but in three days God will raise him up again.
As you gather as a family, talk about places and times when you have experienced God's presence. After his Resurrection, Jesus' disciples understood that Jesus was present with them as they gathered to pray and especially when they gathered to share a meal. Read together today's Gospel, John 2:13-25. Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that he is God's presence with us. Thank God for Jesus' presence with us, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.
Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19:8,9,10,11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25

14th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B
Parents whose children are afraid of the dark are struck by John's observation that darkness is preferred to light. Perhaps this is as it should be. God made us to live in the light of his love. But this original friendship with God was corrupted by sin. Our sin causes us to shy away from Christ, the light that has come into the world. During the season of Lent, we try to fight this tendency by remembering God's great mercy and the salvation that we have received through Jesus. We do not fear confessing our sins, knowing that God forgives us, and so, during Lent, we seek out opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
After your family gathers, sit for a time in darkness, then light a candle. Invite people to talk about what it felt like to be in

the darkness and to compare that to their feelings when the candle was lit. What are we able to see by the limited glow of the candlelight that we couldn't see when we were sitting in darkness? Read today's Gospel, John 3:14-21. John's Gospel teaches us that Jesus was the light that came into the world. In this light we know ourselves to be sinners, but we are not condemned. Instead we have been saved because we have been forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for the great gift of forgiveness we have received through Jesus. Pray together the Act of Contrition.
2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 Psalm 137:1-2,3,4-5,6
Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

21st March - Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B
Family life is often a balancing act in which we prioritize and attend to a variety of competing needs. We learn the value of putting others' needs ahead of our own. In family life we also learn that when we make personal sacrifices to serve others, we gain so much more than we may have lost.
As you gather as a family, talk about how important it is to your family life to gladly serve one another. Ask each person to consider the last time that another family member asked for help. What was your response? Did you cheerfully try to honor the request, or did you ask "Why me?" Read today's Gospel, John 12:20-33. How do you think Jesus would want us to respond when someone in our family asks for help? Invite each family member to make a commitment for the next week to try to respond cheerfully to requests for help. Pray together, asking God's help with this commitment. Pray the Prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,14-15
Hebrews 5:7-9 John 12:20-33

28th March - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Cycle B
Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerfully reflecting on the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of the salvation that Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.
Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."
Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. The passion as found in Mark's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:
Sunday: Mark 11:1-10 (Gospel at the Procession with Palms)
Monday: Mark 14:1-11
Tuesday: Mark 14:12-26
Wednesday: Mark 14:27-52
Thursday: Mark 14:53-72
Friday: Mark 15:1-41
Saturday: Mark 15:42-47
After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer or by singing an appropriate hymn such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?" or "What Wondrous Love is This."
Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24
Philippians 2:6-11 Mark 14:1-15:47

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